

IN THIS ISSUE  
Meldreth —  
First  
Impressions

# SPASTICS NEWS

MAY 1966 PRICE 6d THE MAGAZINE OF THE SPASTICS SOCIETY





# Eighteenth-Century Bristol



## THE SOCIETY'S EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING IS TAKING PLACE—in modern Bristol—ON MAY 14

This rare old print, kindly lent by Messrs. BAYNTON-WILLIAMS of 70 Old Brompton Road, London, S.W.3., will be in the Special Supplement to the June issue of Spastics News published to mark the occasion



# SPASTICS NEWS

The magazine of The Spastics Society

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### Front Cover Picture: Bill Hargreaves proposes 'The Guests'

At the dinner given on the occasion of the '62 Club Conference at Nottingham, Mr. Hargreaves welcomed the guests and praised 'the many achievements of the Nottingham S.S.' Beside him was Alderman W. Derbyshire, J.P., Lord Mayor of Nottingham.

## THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

12 Park Crescent, London, W.1

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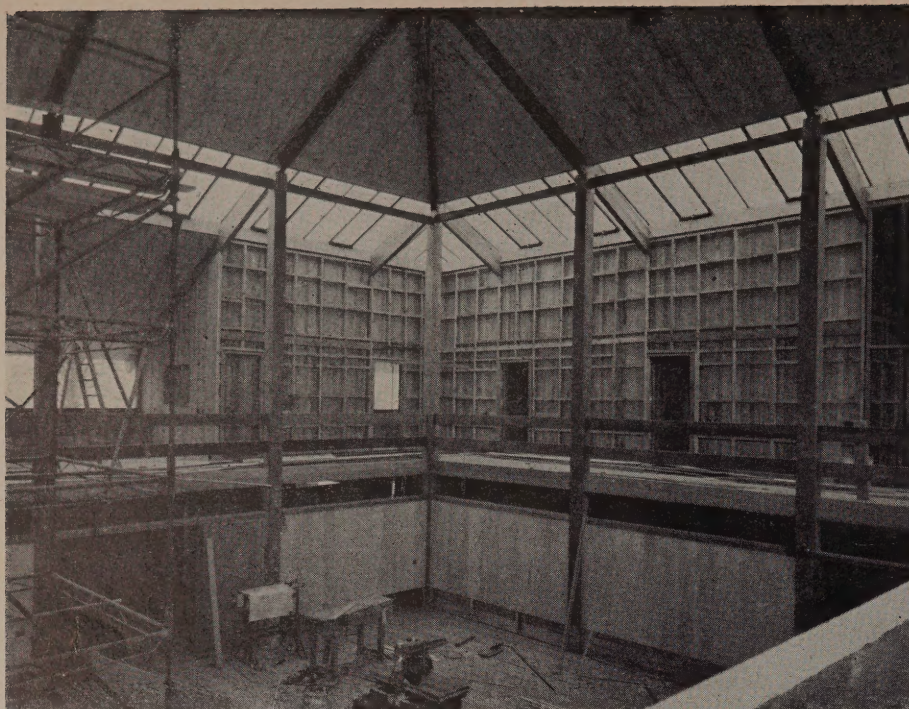
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INSIDE: A view of the interior of the Hall showing the timber construction, the roof-lights, gallery—and scaffolding!

IT WAS HARDLY what one would term 'a beautiful spring day with the daffodils and crocuses providing a vivid splash of colour amid the emerald green grass gently rippling in the light mild breeze, with a bright sun amplifying the effect with dark shadows'—on the contrary, it was a dull March day, with a keen north-east wind blowing and where the green grass should have been, were uneven clods of solid earth churned up by wheels of tractors and heavy lorries—splashed with colour, yes—but white paint and blobs of cement—builders' huts still placed awkwardly in a row, as though trying to show all and sundry that the project was still theirs.

This was my first impression of 'Meldreth', as we have all come to know it during the last few years, as I plodded over the uneven ground towards the Manor House where, I had been told by a busy painter, 'I 'spect that's where you'll find 'im'. You see, I had heard that a Principal had been appointed, and as he was to be a neighbour the least I could do was to offer him the use of my lawn mower at any time—and as with all new neighbours, one must find out what sort of people they are!

I arrived at The Manor and the door was opened by a hand that preceded its owner—it was obviously an extended hand of friendship, so I grasped it and the immediate reaction was that of meeting an old friend, although I had never met Mr. Crabb before—this was a good start. (Being conceited I thought obviously he thinks I am important—but my illusion was soon shattered!). It wasn't that at all, in less than three minutes we were sitting at a

table with a sketch plan of the 'Meldreth Training School' laid out in front of us and we were engaged in a very deep discussion on some of the problems he anticipated, and his hopes of what would be achieved. It was then I realised that I wasn't so important to him after all and I was relieved—I couldn't have carried it off anyway!

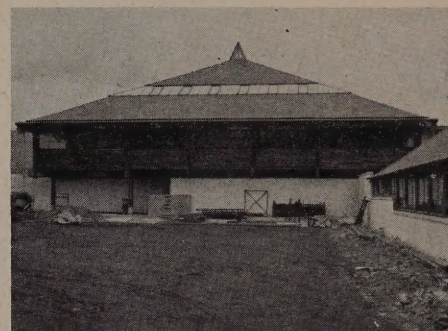
But how nice it is to be made to feel important on a first meeting and through my mind flashed the thought of how parents would feel when they arrive at the school with their children—this confidence of Mr. Crabb's was infectious. I even plucked up courage to ask questions which were bordering on the critical, and certainly hardly fair on a newly-appointed Principal—but answers were forthcoming, and not only enlightening but encouraging.

#### Proud of the Furniture?

After this interesting discussion Mr. Crabb suggested that I might like to see over the place—(this new neighbour must be proud of his furniture I thought!)—apologising in advance that we would not be able to go into all of the buildings as only some of them had been turned over to us, and in any case he had been told to keep out of the main hall because if a block of wood fell on his head the contractor would be responsible! Appreciating the fact that he was not prepared to push me in to see if this was true or not—I readily accepted. This was much more than I had anticipated.

We left the old Manor House—mutually agreeing that it was probably '16th century' (frankly I hadn't a clue!)—and

# Meldreth



OUTSIDE: The Pagoda-like look of the main block, timber and white brick work

made our way over the rough ground towards the main hall—but only to peer in and as Mr. Crabb explained, 'the Administration Offices will be on the first floor'. Remembering the blocks of wood and vulnerable heads we quickly left for one of the 'Children's Blocks' that had been turned over to us.

My impressions of the various buildings scattered about were mixed ones—the design was obviously something new and austere—but wait, let us stand and study this a minute.

No! they are scattered, they have been cleverly placed to leave trees in place, and there is no barracks feeling. The design—new yes, but wait, austere?—no, this whitewash obviously blends with the grey slate roof to merge with the rural surroundings—to my completely lay mind—very ingenious. But what would be inside? You see I was ready to criticise—I was biased, I put myself in the place of parents who will have to bring their children to the school—they will only be there for a short time, but will have many hours to sit and think about this first impression.

Mr. Crabb opened the door for me and I walked in—it was warm, centrally heated of course, but wait—it was not furnished—so my new neighbour was not 'showing off his furniture'!

In point of fact all the rooms were devoid of any furniture whatsoever—but it didn't matter. As with old houses that have been lived in for a long time, there was an atmosphere about the place—it was friendly. This was not the palatial atmosphere one has come to expect of large new buildings—particularly when they are



# —First Impressions

empty. Was it because there was plenty of wood about? Again I had this feeling of blending with the rural surroundings—play rooms, therapy rooms all with a preponderance of wood—how warm and cosy.

We walked into the rooms that will be used to aid the partially deaf—on closing the door the absolute silence was rather frightening—of course, sound proof. On to the dormitories—large, airy yet beautifully warm—‘How many beds Mr. Crabb?’—‘Five’ (I had to ask this one again, as I had vivid recollections of the number in a State Hospital for M.S.N. children.) But this was ideal—ample wardrobe space, separate compartments for each child, and a washbasin with light over the mirror. I commented on the white walls—was this not a little too much?—‘Oh! no, —we will provide the colour—carpets, curtains, and pictures, etc.’—I had asked a silly question!

The bathrooms with their raised baths and warmly covered drying-tables were in keeping with the dormitories—warm and

efficient, toilets had all the requirements to suit handicapped children. The trunk loft was spacious and in the roof—easy access by ladder (first two rungs could be taken out—a wise precaution!).

We went on to the staff quarters in the same building—the same atmosphere prevailed—friendly, homely. Every inch of space in the building had been put to good use—plenty of storage space—up another flight of stairs to the flat designed for visiting families—once again plenty of storage space and cupboards.

## Loudspeakers in Each Room

Mr. Crabb spoke of the piped television that will eventually be installed—the loudspeakers in each room already fitted and the fact that fire drill would most probably be a popular event—the spiral chute to slide down from the upper floor would be great fun!

By this time we were back on the ground floor and in the kitchen—I could smell the food already, and the fish and



*Mr. Crabb, the Principal of Meldreth takes an optimistic view of things, and his confidence is infectious*

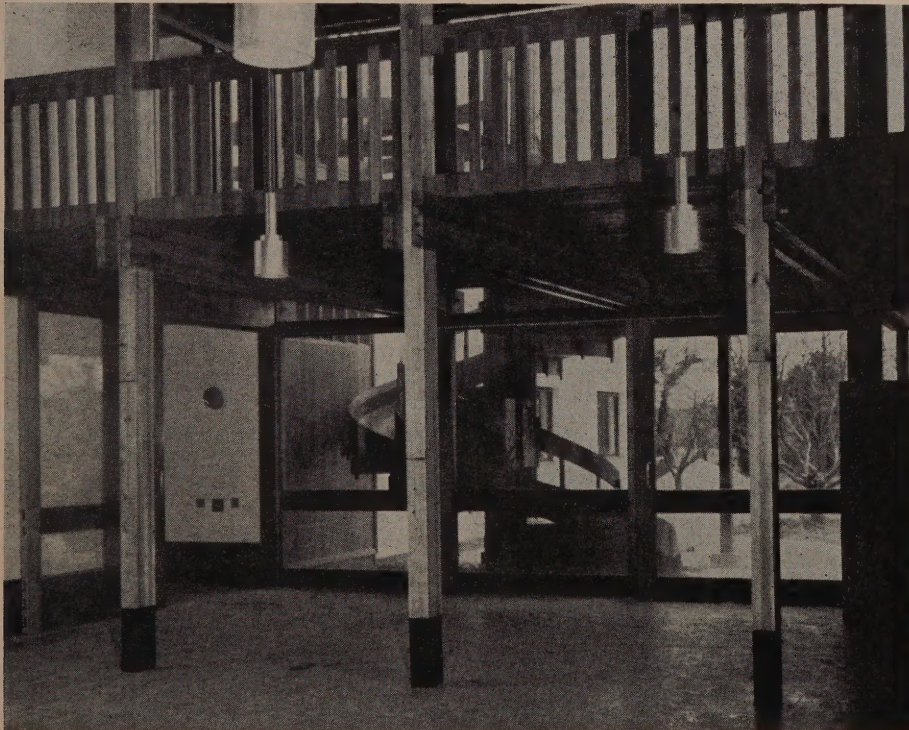
chip frier caught my eye—obviously this is to be a school! Wood was still all around us in the dining room adjacent to the kitchen, and although it was piled high with incoming crates, etc. I visualised this eventually as one of the main focal points of the whole school here the inner man would be catered for—obviously well, and obviously in surroundings conducive to the enjoyment of a meal. We had to go out—on the way I noticed on a label on some newly-delivered coconut matting ‘Please buy goods made by the blind’.

What now, I thought, will be the impression of say a member of the general public who has perhaps subscribed to the Society’s funds? I tried to think objectively about this and I reached the conclusion that here was a combination of planning with the accent on economy without impairing efficiency and not only had this succeeded, but the latter had probably been enhanced by the former.

There is not much more to tell—a quick look at the garages and one of the staff houses, and an impertinent peep into Mr. Crabb’s bedroom—a single bed in an otherwise empty room, and to bed by torchlight! I said I thought the whole project and its aims offered a challenge to him—but he did not see this as a challenge so much as an extension of his previous work with spastic children.

I had to agree, I had learnt so much in this two-hour visit, and I had been so impressed that I felt it should be committed to paper. Had I been asked to do this, I do not think the result would have been the same, but going with an open mind—perhaps a little biased against what I might see, and arriving at the conclusions that I did, will, I hope, help parents in the future to have confidence in the ‘Meldreth Training School’ before they even see it.

My thanks to Mr. Crabb for his hospitality and I now have a friend as well as a neighbour.



**CLEAN LINES:** *A well-judged spatial concept, with a view of the spiral fire-escape through the generously proportioned wall-window*



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## Design for the Disabled

AN IMPORTANT circular issued jointly by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Housing and Local Government in November, 1965, asks every local authority to consider the needs of the disabled, particularly as regards access to public buildings such as libraries. And, of course, town halls, churches, etc., are often almost inaccessible for the handicapped. Unfortunately, the new National Building Regulations do not require special precautions to be taken. A typical example of lack of liaison at Government level.

The Greater London Council however, is aware of the problem. They plan to build a block of flats for 20 or 30 people at Tulse Hill for families with one disabled member and with a nursing wing attached. Manchester, too, has some similar projects on the drawing-board.

## Three Tip-Top Mags

FIRST *'The Responaut'* because it is so well edited by a contributor to our pages, Miss Ann Armstrong (see SPASTICS NEWS February, 1966). Specially designed for sufferers from Respiratory Paralysis—it

shows how an undaunted spirit can overcome a serious disability. *The Daily Mirror* is public-spiritedly backing the venture.

Incidentally, Miss Armstrong made a very nice gesture by returning the small cheque we sent her for her article, saying she wished it to be devoted to the cause of the spastics.

Secondly, *'Yorkshire Achievement'*. This is produced by the Yorkshire Association for the Disabled, St. George's House, Harrogate, which naturally includes many spastics, and in fact the Editor, Mr. Peter Reynolds is himself one.

Unfortunately he has had to go to hospital for an operation, so he is out of action at the moment, but we wish him a speedy recovery.

Thirdly, *'Wider Horizons'*—and what an apt title that is!—with an Editorial Panel culled from Hull, Bucks, Somerset, Kent, Cumberland, Newcastle and Southport. The April issue was their fiftieth, full of good things too in the way of personal experiences and verse. I rather liked the little story about Dennis the lame Duck ' . . . My Aunt Clara says that her

generation thought nothing of getting up at 6 a.m. Here's one member of the younger generation who doesn't think much of it either.'

## Six Maidstonians for The Stars Record Show

SIX LADIES BENEFITED from the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Earl, who gave away their prizes for winning the *'Spot-the-Stars Competition'* in the February SPASTICS NEWS—Kathleen O'Sullivan, Pamela Prentice, Joan Colechin, Mary Saville, Pat Dixon and Mrs. Prentice.

## Back Numbers Please

The Society is trying to collect enough back numbers of *'Spastics News'* to bind the yearly issues together, but we have discovered that we are woefully short, of even some issues of only the year before last.

We would be very grateful to hear of anyone who is prepared to let us have them—however old. Details to the Editor, Please.

## All This and Champagne Too

MRS. PEGGY GOSLER is hoping for a good attendance for the ball the North Surrey Group is organising, on Friday, 20th May. There will be a champagne reception from 9 until 10 o'clock, followed by dancing, buffet at 11.30 p.m. (more champagne included!) and a cabaret. Sid Lipton of Grosvenor House fame is providing the music, and there will, of course, be a tombola with splendid prizes.

It is taking place at Upper Court, Portsmouth Road, Esher, Surrey, and it sounds as though it should be a terrific party and well worth the 4 gn. ticket (doubles 7 gns.). Tables small and large can be booked from Mrs. Gosler, Briar Patch, Itchenor, W. Sussex.

## Smiling Faces at Wolverhampton

WOLVERHAMPTON & DISTRICT Spastics Society have now formed a Youth Club with the title of *'The Smiling Faces'* and a competition is being held to choose an appropriate badge for members. There will be a meeting of the Club at Penn Congregational Church Hall on 6th June.

The District Committee will meet on Thursday, 19th May, at the Regional Office.

Branch members, Mrs. Cocks, Mrs. Marsden, Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Tomlinson will be attending the E.G.M. at Bristol,



PARTY FOR THE LANCASTER, MORECAMBE and DISTRICT SPASTICS: nearly 100 children and parents attended this successful party at Sunnyfield E.S.N. School, Morecambe. Guest of honour was Mr. L. Boyden (left), President of the Bradford S.S., and Mrs. L. Welldrake, Mr. L. Wharmby and the Welfare Officer, Mrs. Mailer, were present to distribute the refreshments





and Mr. Needham will be providing transport.

Dr. Griffiths and Mrs. Tomlinson attended a Conference at the Society's Training College, Castle Priory, near Wallingford, Berks, in March to hear about the Society's structure and plans for the future and found that it was a very worthwhile effort in two-way communication between Headquarters and the Groups.

## A Truly Christian Concern

AMID THE STRESS of every day concerns at the H.Q. of this great Society we rarely have time to pause and think of the still small voice of conscience that, after all, is the basis of our charitable appeals.

Occasionally a heart-warming letter revives the sense of gratitude to people everywhere who make our work possible by their generosity.

Two such instances occurred only recently. A wonderful bunch of kids at Poole's Park Junior Mixed School in North London, sparked off by hearing the story of the cripple lowered through the roof to be healed by Jesus, made some flags with drawings of shoes on them and went round the school selling them for Spastics, and, lo and behold, a cheque for £3 1s. 4d. arrives!

Four of them wrote and illustrated their letters with gay crayons:—

'We wish you could play like us', they



**INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE AT WORK:** Digging ditches or cleaning windows, it all comes the same to these keen students from all over the world. Here they are working at White Lodge Centre, Chertsey. (Left) Christine Giles (Stafford), Helena Honomichlova (Prague), and Hillary Chambers (Bolton)

say, 'and run about and we hope you will soon be much better.'

A Presbyterian Minister, too, at present working amongst the Chinese in Malaysia has sent us £15 to further our work. He became interested after receiving one of our Christmas cards. We won't embarrass him by giving his name but should he read these words, 'thanks all the same, dear Sir, your sacrifice is deeply appreciated'.

## West Midland A.G.M. Reminder

THE SOCIETY'S NEW WORK CENTRE, Meadway, Garrett's Green Lane, Birmingham 33, will be the venue of the West Midland area Conference on Saturday, 4th June. The Hon. Hugh Fraser, M.B.E., M.P., President of the Stafford & District S.A., will be in the chair, and the Region's Advisory Committee Chairman, Mr. J. E. Marboth (Chairman of the Shrewsbury & District Spastics Group) will also attend, and other members of this vital co-ordinating body will be elected.

Mr. L. Bowstead, Inspector of Special Schools, Manchester Education Committee, and former Headmaster of Baginton Fields School, Coventry, will be guest speaker on the subject of 'Recent Trends in the Education of Handicapped children and Young Persons'. Mr. S. T. Allman, the Society's Employment Officer will also address the Conference on 'Some Current Developments in Training and Employment.'

Coaches will be available to carry delegates and friends to Broadstones Hostel for tea.

We hope to publish an account of this

meeting in the July issue. The Hostel and Centre—the 100th to be put in operation by the Society—was, of course, opened by H.R.H. Princess Marina in April, and a fully illustrated account of this outstanding event in the history of the Society will be appearing in the June issue.

## 'SPASTICS NEWS' and the Future

VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS are being planned to make the magazine, we hope, more interesting and readable, and don't forget, at the price of 6d. the Society is practically giving it away, so we would like to hear from readers, what they like, what they dislike, or alternatively would like more of.

However, not being a National Sunday paper, we cannot manufacture news, we are dependent on you for that. (Group Secretaries please note!).

A special newspaper-type supplement is being produced to mark the occasion of the E.G.M. at Bristol this month, which all subscribers will be receiving as an Extra with the June issue. We hope you like it; if it goes down well enough to justify the cost, you may expect further supplements from time to time.

Without revealing the Editor's secrets too far in advance (. . . the best laid plans, etc. . . !) we can inform harassed mothers and bewitched, bothered and bewildered house-parents that starting in June, there will be a children's bed-time story to read to the younger ones, that we hope they will find as delightful as we did, and a help in getting those dratted small fry off to sleep!



# The South East : *Pride of Bearing*

THE SOUTH-EAST CONFERENCE, organised by the Regional Officer, Mr. H. J. I. Cunningham, on 20th March, took place this year at Thomas Delarue School, in Tonbridge, Kent. About 150 group members attended, which was almost double last year's tally, and would have been more had not a coach broken down on the way!

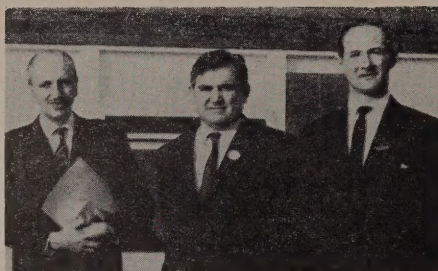
On a coldish day, that the brilliant sun did little to allay, the splendid range of new buildings made a strong impression. But even more impressive was the cheerfulness and good manners of the students detailed to take visitors round on a sight-seeing tour. Organised in parties of twelve, we saw workshops, labs., classrooms and dormitories, and all our questions were answered knowledgeably and with humour by our guides in their smart maroon blazers. (At Delarue tidy hair and clean nails are a *sine qua non*!)

The Conference was opened by Mr. Vernon (who took the opportunity of pointing out the Amenities Fund Box in the Hall), and who introduced the Headmaster, Mr. G. D. C. Tudor, M.A.

Mr. Tudor, who has a spastic child in his family, said he aimed to make the School a 'friendly place', but nevertheless H.M. Inspectors of Schools approved it, and commended the 'pride of bearing' of the pupils. There are 87 from the ages of 11 up to 21, in a ratio of two boys to one girl. It bears something of a 'comprehensive' aspect, being co-educational, and a grammar and modern school combined. On an average each student suffers from multiple handicaps, about 'two-and-a-half' apiece.

Great are the difficulties of the educator under these circumstances even with a large staff and special buildings, he went on. Some students have to have an amanuensis to translate their thoughts onto a typewriter at very slow speeds. (There are special cubicles for this purpose). And yet, one bright boy, who dictated only two words a minute got two 'O' levels in G.C.E.

Of no less importance in Mr. Tudor's view is the training for independence, the occupational therapy of sporting and social activities, wheelchair dancing and riding. He makes the point that the boys and girls may be disabled, but they are *not* invalids and for that reason the ebb and flow of



Prof. Paul Polani, Mr. A. M. Frank, and the Headmaster, Mr. G. D. C. Tudor

visitors—even this Conference—all helps in his three aims to encourage gaiety, courage and self-confidence.

Miss Margaret Richards, the Society's Senior Family Caseworker then gave a most penetrating and human analysis of the problems of the school-leaver—After School—What?

We hope to persuade her to allow us to publish her talk in full sometime, but the gist of it goes something like this: the outlook of a spastic teenager differs in no material sense from that of a non-spastic.

With boys, they want to do a job and earn a wage, and girls want to have boy friends and marry, and they both demand to be treated as adult individuals, with their own personalities and talents. In many cases this shows a lack of grasp on reality, but often no worse than the non-handicapped, and with more work centres, much more could be done to satisfy legitimate aspirations.

Prof. A. Polani, Prince Philip, Professor of Paediatrics at Guy's Hospital followed Miss Richards, and at once we were whisked from every day life into the abstruse regions of the electron microscope which sees the unseeable! To try and convey his wealth of knowledge on the subject of cellular biology would be a hopeless task but at any rate his audience had a fascinating survey of the research programme being carried out—even if they didn't understand it! One couldn't help thinking, however, that whatever joy the scientists got out of their programme, the rats were having a hell of a time.

O.R.B.



Mr. H. J. I. Cunningham (R.O.), Dr. Fox, Mr. L. O. Vernon (Chairman) and Mr. Wright (Kent Education Officer)



# Wessex : Wanted— a Project

THE WESSEX REGION CONFERENCE chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons, Dr. Horace King, the local M.P., attended by over 160 people, including several spastics, and organised by the Regional Officer, Miss Charmian Mould, took place on 2nd April, in an excellent lecture hall at Southampton University, by kind permission of the Vice-Chancellor.

A civic welcome was accorded to the A.G.M. by the Mayor of Southampton, Alderman R. C. Haskell, J.P., and Mr. E. G. Williment of the Winchester Group, Chairman of the Wessex Region Advisory Committee, delivered an excellent survey of the aims and achievements of the two-year-old Committee. One of the chief difficulties, he said, in a Region that stretches from Portsmouth to Gloucester was to get the six members together; they had in fact met the four times required, and now had a good idea of what needed to be done. He visualised their role as one of giving a lead, and also as a means of bringing Groups together and pooling experiences, and perhaps resources.

In a situation where the Society has had to defer many plans owing to shortage of finance, he felt that a Common Project was required to fire the imagination, and harness the separate efforts of Groups in the Region to some desirable goal. Mr. Faulkner of Swindon, wanted a project for adult spastics, and Mr. Baker of Bournemouth, agreed. He said the situation was really desperate for some when the parents got too old to care for their handicapped offspring, with a result that quite young people had to be put away in an institution for old people.

Mrs. Welch, the very active and kindly moving spirit of the Southampton Group (herself the mother of four healthy children—and with some grand-children), told of progress towards the new Work Centre, and drew attention to the need



*The Mayor of Winchester, Ald. C. H. Bones, J.P., who presented a cheque for £360 to Mr. E. G. Williment (Chairman of the Winchester Group) recently, the proceeds of the Mayoral Ball. Mr. J. S. Knight, Chairman of the Ball Committee looks on*

for a hostel in the area for spastics to live away from home.

Mr. James Loring (Assistant Director Services) then gave a survey of the problems of the Society in dealing with the spastic population within the context of limited means—not the least of which is spotting them at an early age. There is much to be done in acquainting parents of the nature of cerebral palsy; most

**Dr. King's notable comment:** *"If half the love bestowed on the disabled were given to normal children, there would be no delinquency."*

parents are very vague on the subject, moreover they tend to be socially isolated, although in his experience less so in the North than the South, and less so in working-class families than in middle-class ones.

Because the Ministry of Education does not list the cerebral palsied as a class requiring special education, the Society's 35 schools and centres were answering a real need, and there were long waiting lists of every category. In Great Britain more has been done in this field than anywhere else in the world. He thought the ideal home would be for 50 residents—no more. One had to consider that out of a representative sample of 300 spastics, there would be some 500 other handicaps to cope with. More attention was needed to

the design of public buildings to facilitate access for the wheelchair and the disabled generally.

The Society has suffered some adverse publicity of late, but that must not be allowed to deflect us from our aims. £½ million was being spent on research, £300,000 was allocated to help local groups, and £350,000 for centres, which in effect was relieving the strain on public funds.

Miss Margaret Richards followed with the talk mentioned in connection with the South-Eastern Conference, and Dr. Philip Benson, of the Paediatric Research Unit, Guy's Hospital, gave his version of the work described by Professor Polani at the same Conference.

Perhaps rather unfairly, Dr. Benson was quizzed unmercifully by many anxious delegates under the impression that he was a practising medico and not a research scientist. 'Doctors Don't Care' was the burden of many distressful complaints—to which others echoed—"and some don't know". It seems that the Society has a further duty here to see that the medical profession in general are briefed to deal humanely and understandingly with young parents. Some of them are completely bowled over when they learn they have a spastic child, and just don't know what to do about it.

Pathetic too, was the question of a lad of about 18, spastic as a result of a motorcycle accident, who asked if he could be 'cured'. One only hoped that his memory



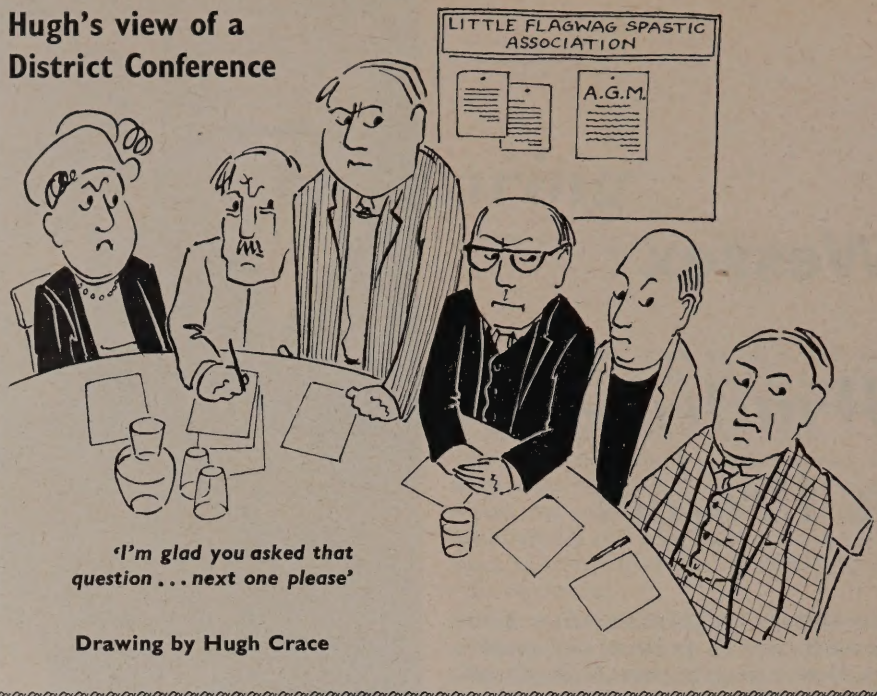
of his previous active life had been blurred. Another congenital spastic also asked if there would ever be a cure—so despite everything, the hope still persists. Let us hope not in vain.

Mr. David Hobman, Information Officer of the N.C.S.S., was the last speaker, his subject: Voluntary Action in a Welfare State—his conclusion, that there was plenty of room for it. There was a distinct movement towards the co-ordination of different welfare schemes, and voluntary workers should try not to have too exclusive an enthusiasm for a particular cause.

Mr. Hobman gave some disquieting examples of local opposition to welfare schemes that—in the opinion of the prejudiced—would adversely affect their property values. Such were to do with the opening of a Ministry of Health Centre, an old people's home and an open prison. These attitudes could only be overcome by broadening the concept of 'Community Care', into something that in fact the community should care about, the plight of those less fortunate than oneself.

O.R.B.

## Hugh's view of a District Conference



Drawing by Hugh Grace

# The East Midland: *No Universal Solution*

THE SECOND EAST MIDLANDS Regional Conference was held on Sunday, 3rd April, 1966, at the Commodore Banqueting Rooms, Nottingham. There were some 120 people present, of whom about 90 were members of local groups, and the rest either consultants or representatives of local authorities.

The Sheriff of Nottingham, Alderman C. M. Reed, J.P., opened the Conference by welcoming the delegates to Nottingham. The Sheriff's Lady, Mrs. Reed, was presented with a brooch, made by spastics, by 17-year-old Diane McDevitt.

His Grace the Duke of Rutland, C.B.E., President of the Nottingham and District Friends of Spastics Group, Chaired the Conference.

The opportunity was taken before the start of the proceedings to fill the three vacancies on the Regional Advisory Committee. There were five nominations, but the three returning members were re-elected. The six members of the Committee are:—Mr. H. E. Wolff (Nottingham), Mr. A. Rogers (Chesterfield), Miss T. A. Bradbury (Leicester), Mr. F. F. Wright (Derby), Mr. K. P. Gardner (Northampton), Mr. G. Taylor (Lincoln).

It would seem natural at Nottingham, that after an opening address by the Sheriff, someone by the name of 'Tuck' should be called upon to speak. Our first speaker was, in fact, A. D. Tuck, Esq.,

the Disablement Resettlement Officer for Nottingham, who spoke on '*The Problems of Employment of Handicapped Adults*'.

He listed many forms of disablement and handicap, and showed how he helped many such people find suitable work. Where there was any doubt about a person's ability to do his job, or suitability to cope with an alternative occupation, such a person could be invited to go to an Industrial Resettlement Unit, where he could be assessed by experts. However, if a person was so disabled that he could not go into industry, consideration could be given to a residential training course through which he could set up in business on his own account. Severely handicapped on the other hand, could be recommended for sheltered employment for indefinite periods.

## So Many Disabilities

He concluded by saying there are so many problems connected with the person suffering from a disability, so many different kinds of disabilities, so many different outlooks, so much diversity in locations, that it was impossible to generalise and provide a panacea or universal solution. Each person must be dealt with as a complete individual with his own particular abilities and restrictions, personality, likes and dislikes—and only by treating him as an individual, a special person—

can his problem be solved and satisfactory resettlement accomplished.

After luncheon, Mr. Rogers took over the chair, and introduced the second speaker, J. H. Watson, Esq., Warden of Prested Hall, who enlivened the proceedings with examples of some of his 'cases'.

His theme was '*The Problem of the Unemployable Adult Spastic*'. He made it clear at the onset that he was in full agreement with those who say that our modern techniques in industry should make it possible to offer everyone employment somewhere within the industrial system. But speaking of the residents under his care, it was clear that for a variety of reasons, they must be regarded as non-employable.

He went on to say that the Spastics Society was making every effort to prepare, train and fit spastics into open or sheltered employment, but it would be sad if the only work available to achieve fulfilment was that of the factory line and the mechanistic functioning of automation.

We should stimulate, encourage and sustain our spastics, bringing them out into the sun so that they can bestow upon the environment in which they live, the simple qualities of love and affection, which is at the root of any kind of family life.

A successful meeting closed with a question and answer forum.

T.H.O'N.



# Development of a Blind Spastic Child

by Dr. Jerome Cohen

## REMARKABLE PROGRESS ACHIEVED

THE FICTITIOUS NAME Karen Waters is used for this ten and one-half year old, slight, and pretty blind child who was brought to our attention nearly seven years ago. We were conducting a longitudinal study of blind children and offering some medical and guidance service as a research project under U.S. Public Health Service auspices at North-western University. She was referred by a social agency prior to a decision about placing her in a state institution for the mentally retarded.

The case is presented as an example of how a child can overcome the severe disadvantages of gross multiple handicaps and early emotional deprivation. Although most children with such a severe impairment and unfavourable background have not developed as well as the girl in this report, it is an illustration of what can be done with the co-operation of several individuals and agencies in planning a rehabilitative programme. It also illustrates the positive, indomitable spirit which can prevail in a person and the force for positive growth which exists in most children. If properly nourished, it often results in healthy psychological development despite a gloomy early picture.

### Social History

According to the report of her social worker, Karen's natural parents were unwilling or unable to cope with a severely handicapped child and wanted her 'put away.' They considered her hopeless, and they were unco-operative and even tried to obstruct constructive approaches for Karen which went beyond physical care. It took a court order to get permission for the study treatment of Karen. Later, when it became obvious even to her mother that Karen was far better off with a foster mother, Mrs. Waters became guilt-ridden and jealous and rejected strenuously any constructive approaches.

While on the waiting list for institutional placement, Karen was placed in a foster home with Mr. and Mrs. Cotton. The state of her neglect at the time is shown by the fact that her possession included six pairs of pyjamas and only one dress.

The foster parents were unusual people to take such a severely impaired child into the home, and much credit for Karen's

progress and rehabilitation is due to them, even though in many respects the home was far from ideal. The Cottons were a childless couple in their early forties. They had taken other foster children for relatively short times and this seemed to give Mrs. Cotton some satisfaction, deepening her role as a homemaker. Mr. Cotton was a salesman. Both seemed to be of average intelligence and were friendly, well meaning people.

They had gone through periods of personal dissatisfaction with each other, and this partly motivated their wanting foster children in the house. Once having a child, they were patient and responsible in their efforts to do their best for him.

The first examination by our staff revealed that Karen, at the age of three and one-half, was totally blind, physically very weak, extremely small and thin for her age, without any language development, and apparently suffering from the effects of emotional deprivation and isolation. As far as it could be determined, Karen was blind from the time of premature birth with retrolental fibroplasia. Her neurological examination revealed that she was suffering from spastic quadriplegia and was unable to sit without support to her back or to stand or walk unsupported. She had had some minor seizures as a baby and speech was almost totally absent, although the foster mother claimed that she said four or five words. Although hearing was essentially within the normal range below 4,000 cycles per second, the audiometric evaluation revealed a sharp 70 decibel loss in both ears at this frequency and above. Our project referred her for continuing neurological and orthopaedic evaluation and therapy.

### Psychological Status

At the time of her first examination, it was impossible to administer any formal psychological tests. Karen showed signs of positive growth potential, despite the fact that she had been almost totally confined to a crib for the first three years of her life and had suffered from severe emotional neglect by her natural parents. On the first contact with the psychologist, she seemed to be a frightened child with no confidence or trust in the people around her, and she stiffened her body when touched.

Little more could be done than to try to establish some degree of rapport. She rejected any attempt at tactual contact and even threw down toys and cuddly animals when they were handed to her. She either could not or would not speak or answer questions.

At the time of a second visit to the psychologist one month later, she showed a receptivity for an affectional relationship and indicated that she had potential for emotional growth. She clung to the examiner and later kissed him. Another hopeful sign was that although she still rejected tactual contact with toys that were handed to her, she invariably sniffed everything and brought whatever was movable into contact with her mouth and nose before throwing it down. This indicated to the psychologist that Karen was eager to enter into communication with her physical and social environment once she could overcome her emotional blocking. On the third session she pointed to her hand, hair, eyes, nose, mouth, and shoes at the examiner's request. She also clapped her hands, reached for objects, and found objects, such as keys, by their sound whenever asked to do so. She still did not attempt to talk, but she made pleasing sounds.

The progression of her behaviour during the first few interviews was indication to the psychologist that the functional retardation was due to emotional deprivation and lack of exposure to experiences in the environment necessary for proper intellectual growth and expression. Because of these prognostic indications, we recommended that if Karen would remain in the home with her foster parents, there was a decided possibility that growth would take place.

### Developmental Progress

Karen started on a programme of physical therapy at the age of five, and it was decided to enroll her in a nursery school. She was not ready for a regular classroom, but she attended a nursery school where she had one hour a day in occupational and physical therapy, and she gained mobility with an orthopaedic walker. Speech therapy was scheduled irregularly at first. Despite some early difficulties in adjusting to school, she made significant progress in the way she played and in learning to understand objects and people around her. After a semester, there were signs of further improvement in educational growth and in social adjustment to other children, which became very enjoyable to Karen. Her teacher reported that she was 'well oriented to the room, she walks to her cabinet with help and finds her own suitcase. She dresses with assistance and walks in the parallel bars. She is able to get around herself somewhat with a tripod crutch device.' Her speech thera-

(Continued on p. 13)



## A Tribute to

# The Bowyers of Coombe Farm



*A DISTINGUISHED VISITOR: Signora Zoe Fontana, Italy's leading fashion designer, being shown round by Mr. Bowyer. Signora Fontana and her two sisters have done wonderful work for spastics in Italy, and secured substantial government help*

COOMBE FARM was extraordinarily fortunate in having Mr. and Mrs. Francis Bowyer as Warden and Matron to see it right through the first ten years of its development. They have both given themselves completely to Coombe Farm over this long period, and faced many and varied difficulties with courage and humour.

Their qualities have been complimentary, and have combined to weld a diverse group of severely handicapped spastics, many of whom were very unsure of themselves or intensely individualistic, into a healthy, lively and extremely optimistic community.

Every one of the forty-five spastics at Coombe Farm trust both Mr. and Mrs. Bowyer implicitly. This has been achieved without creating a personal dependence on them, which would have been all too easy, but in a way that has given the residents a sense of security as a background against which each can develop his own personality and face future changes with confidence.

As a neighbour and member of the

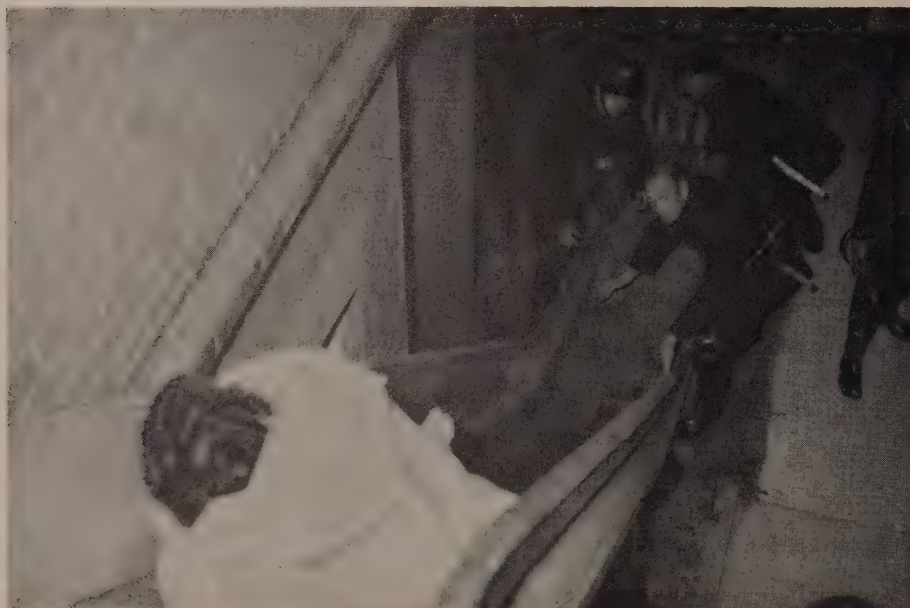
Management Committee the change that strikes me most over these years is the way the spastics living at Coombe Farm have matured, with the growth of individual character and greatly increased social confidence and poise. Their tendency to fear new experiences has been replaced by a tremendous enthusiasm to try anything, seek wider horizons and generally participate as fully as possible in everything life has to offer them.

Mr. Bowyer has had the ultimate authority. With his philosophical approach to problems, he has done most of the thinking and planning over the broad field. His decisions have been carefully weighed. He has a tremendous understanding and real feeling for anyone who does not seem to have had a fair deal in life, for whatever reason. He will never strike anyone who is down, and if anyone should do anything seriously wrong, once it has been dealt with it is forgotten and every help is given towards a fresh start.

## A Constructive Approach

Staff as well as spastics have benefited from this constructive approach to human failings. This considered, reflective way of dealing with people and problems has provided the perfect foil to Mrs. Bowyer's dynamic, impulsive and very forceful personality. Mrs. Bowyer finds a challenge irresistible, and her refusal to admit defeat has frequently enabled her to achieve the apparently impossible in co-operation with one of the residents, particularly in the field of physical independence. Mrs. Bowyer has ferretted out all available information and done much original work in finding ways and means by which the handicapped can accomplish the ordinary activities of daily life for themselves.

Mrs. Bowyer has put the whole force of her personality into these endeavours, and the recipient may have been left breathless, but almost invariably laughing and only too ready and anxious to come back for more, until in the end rewarded by the thrill of success. Warm and generous to a degree, Mrs. Bowyer is devoid of sentimentality. Thus Mr. and Mrs. Bowyer have given to the spastics resident at Coombe Farm the strength to accept their



*FIRE PRACTISE, 1959: a blanketed resident sets off down the fire escape into the waiting arms of the Fire Brigade in the middle of the night*



by  
**Jean Garwood**

departure with confidence in the future, badly as they will be missed.

All who have been connected with Coombe Farm in any way over all these years will wish to join in this short and inadequate tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Bowyer on their retirement, and to wish them every future happiness in their new life ahead.

### The New Warden

Assigned to the difficult task of following in Mr. Bowyer's footsteps is Mr. E. T. Udall, M.A., who comes from the Buxton Centre, where he was Assistant Warden, after being Senior Houseparent from September, 1963. Mr. Udall, who is 42, joined the Society and worked at Ponds as a general assistant and Houseparent during 1963. Before that he was Managing Director of two successful market garden companies. Mrs. Udall is a qualified Social Worker and was an Hospital Almoner for some years.

We wish them both the best of luck in this new appointment—and their new house!



*THE WORKSHOP IN FULL SWING, 1960: when the emphasis changed from craftwork to light engineering contracts more interest was shown (the Works Manager, Mr. A. E. Harlow is top left)*

## A HOT MEAL IN 20 SECONDS

ALL OF US . . . Well, most of us, like to eat three meals a day, seven days a week. Those who do the cooking like to work a 5½ (or 5) day week. The gap has to be closed by improvisation—split duty (which is not very popular) extra pay in lieu of time off (which can be expensive) or by overworking someone! The position

becomes even more difficult when one thinks of unforeseen sickness, or holidays.

Recently, science has provided one answer to this problem, a process of re-heating by *Microwaves*, which is not to be confused with other re-heating methods so deprecated by medical thought. One of these *Microwave Ovens* is to be tried out over the next twelve months at the Prested Hall Centre, as part of the Society's policy of trying anything which gives promise of economy, efficiency and, more especially, greater comfort to residents and staff.

In theory, and the next twelve months will show up the difference between theory and practice, the cook and, of course, the kitchen staff, will prepare and cook on five days of the working week, extra meals which will be eaten on two days of the week, say—Saturday and Sunday. These extra meals, over and above the daily menus, will go into a refrigerator for use on Saturday and Sunday. When the weekend comes round these meals will be taken out of the refrigerator, re-heated in the *Microwave Oven* and served piping hot within 20 seconds.

All this is only a brief hint of the fascinating possibilities of this oven. For night staff two minutes could provide a hot meal, starting from scratch as it were, and half of this time would be sufficient for bacon and sausages.

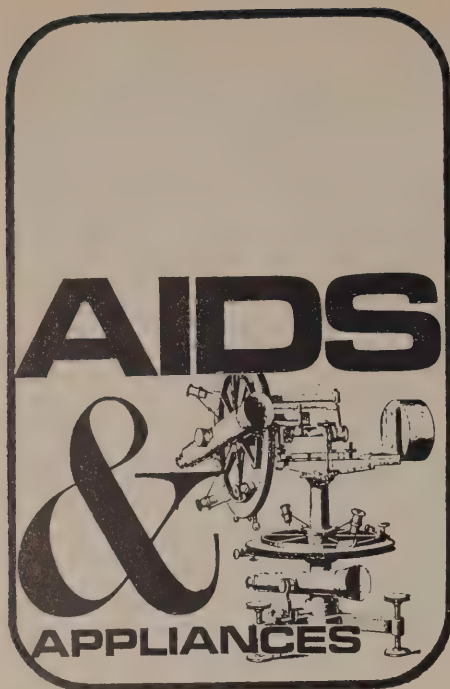
Many of our schools and centres will follow with interest the Prested Hall experiment.

M.A.M.



*SWIM AND GET WELL: the spacious and well-designed Hydrotherapy pool was the inspiration of 'Mr. Pastry', Richard Hearne. (Could it be Mrs. Bowyer lending a hand?)*





### Carrywell Tray

Marianne West brings a cup of tea to her husband Peter on the Carrywell Tray. She finds this tray very useful round the house because the tea in the cups stays the same level, even when the tray is swinging. Just before this photograph was taken, Marianne tripped and covered Peter with water. There is, of course, a limit to what this tray will do for athetoids!

This tray is made by Portair Products Limited, Churches Mill, Woodchester, Nr. Stroud, Gloucestershire, and costs 33/11d.

I have had an anxious request from Carters that we should publish the amendment that the Rubber Bath Mat, illustrated in last month's SPASTICS NEWS, costs 19s. 6d. plus 2s. 9d. for postage and packing, and not 18s. 4d. as given last month. This is because of purchase tax.

I find this request somewhat encouraging, as it goes to show that the Aids and Appliance section is being read and perhaps even useful.

Appliance Officer.



## SOME USEFUL KITCHEN EQUIPMENT FOR THE HANDICAPPED HOUSEWIFE

Every now and then, I have enquiries from handicapped housewives who mostly require equipment that can be easily managed with one hand. Here is a brief photographic display which I set up in my own kitchen.

- Above the teapot is the Caddy-Matic which dispenses a spoonful of tea at every push of the knob. The Caddy-Matic Tea Dispenser costs 21s.
- To the right is the Magnette Kitchen Equipment Rack, which is quite reliable for holding steel knives, but they should be placed as in the photograph so that they do not slide off.
- Below this is the plastic suction egg cup which not only acts as a sucker to the saucer but also to the egg. Colours, green, red and blue, and costs 1s. 4d. each.
- The Morphy Richards Pop Up Electric Toaster at £7 12s. 6d., the non-stick saucepan from 23s. 6d., and the whistling kettle with lid controlled by the lever on the handle, are all useful aids.
- The Parkinson gas oven is only suitable in so far that the gas rings light automatically from a pilot light and the levers controlling these rings are pull up flaps and are extremely easy to manipulate. The only gas oven made for the handicapped is the Flavel G.C.I. Cooker which was illustrated in the December 1965 issue of the SPASTICS NEWS.

All the above can be obtained from Selfridge's, Oxford Street, London, W.1, or from any other large store.

The flying saucepans are held on the Bruno pot hooks, anodised in four colours—silver, red, blue and green, cost 1s. 6d. each, and has the advantage of the handle being easy to grasp from beneath. When fixed over a draining board, saucepans can be left to drip dry. The inventor wishes to remain anonymous. Bruno pot hooks can only be obtained from this office.





## Think of India

**W** E SPASTIC PEOPLE would not be human if occasionally like everyone else we did not feel sorry for ourselves. It is a natural human failing which besets the best of us. But as the guest writer of this editorial I have been turning over in my mind just what rights we have to feel that just because we are spastic we should feel sad, unhappy, and discontented with our lot.

This morning I received an interesting visitor in the person of Dr. Mullaferose, who is a medical officer from Bombay. I wonder if my readers can possibly begin to understand the problem of the spastic person in India. I thought that we had problems, but they pale into insignificance when compared with the problems faced by them. Where does one begin? First of all one has to arouse authorities to make sure that the normal person has enough to eat, the normal person receives education, the normal person has a job to go to. These things are far from being done in

Their child being born spastic is an act of fate, and therefore they have to accept it, and, therefore again, do nothing about it.

Dr. Mullaferose is in this country to learn as much as possible about the education and treatment of the spastic child, but I sensed her frustration when she saw so much being done for spastics in this country, knowing full well that however much she learnt she would be unable to put these things into practice in her own country. Therefore, when we ourselves begin to feel sorry for ourselves, when we complain about our lot, I think it will do us all good to think about the spastics in India, and underdeveloped countries, and to realise that their future is practically nil, until such time that all the other problems associated with under-development are solved. After all, it was only the advent of the National Health Service in this country that provided so much for the sick and needy, that has enabled the

 *many languages — little food* 

India, and so therefore, the lot of the spastic person there, either child or adult, is to say the least, extremely difficult.

Dr. Mullaferose is in charge of an orthopaedic hospital in Bombay, and in her position she sees something like 300 spastic children, for whom she can do very little. This is because of a multiple of factors, chief of which is because India speaks with so many tongues it is sometimes impossible for her to explain to the parents that very little can be done medically for their child, but that in order that the best opportunity can be given them it is for the parents themselves, as it was here in England, fourteen years ago, to organise themselves in order to give their children education and treatment.

It is extremely difficult for a doctor in her position to explain these things, sometimes in languages which do not contain the necessary vocabulary for certain explanations to be given, and quite obviously it is a most frustrating task for the doctors to convince the parents that it is up to them to do something about it.

Indians on the whole are fatalistic.

spastics cause to become known, and has enabled the parents to rise up and form themselves into groups.

The long term result being, as we all know, that very many spastics have obtained their freedom from bondage, and we are able, many of us, to obtain jobs, and to work side by side, and to live on equal terms with our neighbours.

My discussion with Dr. Mullaferose about Club activities obviously, to her, was a pipe dream of the future, obtainable perhaps, in very many years to come, when once the people had gathered themselves together, and solved their other difficulties, then perhaps they would be able to find a little time, and a great deal of money, to solve the problems of the spastic child born into conditions which we can only imagine.

BILL HARGREAVES.

### Editorial Comment:

*This problem seems insurmountable, more so when you think, as I am sure you will 'Well, what can we possibly do about it?' I would be interested to know if you have any ideas or suggestions.—Ed.*

## '62 CLUBS SUPPLEMENT

May issue—1966

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF  
THE MONMOUTHSHIRE S.S.

## 'I Protest ...'

To the Editor, '62 Club Supplement,  
Dear Mrs. West,

Mr. P. Tracy's letter in your February 1966, Supplement poses the question as to whether a spastic living in an area, deemed to be rural, is at a disadvantage when compared with others with well organised Group facilities.

This not only presupposes that this Groups (Monmouthshire) is badly organised but he had the bad grace to say so. If this were true, nobody would quarrel with him but, for the benefit of readers who may gain a wrong impression, let me hasten to assure them, and Mr. Tracy, that after only two years of experience as a Group, we are well organised and are gradually providing as full a service for all ages of spastics as is possible in the short time we have been in operation.

That this Society has not measured up to Mr. Tracy's own requirements of us in this particular case, despite our efforts, is no reflection on the Group and his ability, as displayed by his letter, would be better used to helping the Group and, thereby, his fellow spastics.

Yours sincerely, C. E. WILLIAMS (Mrs.),  
Lynwood, Griffithstown, Mon.

*Editor's comment: I just would like to point out that no names were mentioned.*





Time off from the chores, on the water on a sunny afternoon

## Camping at Woodlarks

by Audrey Johnston —  
Liverpool

WOODLARKS is a camp in the true sense of the word, and is available for all handicapped people. It is set in the most glorious little hollow surrounded by gently sloping hills and tall evergreen trees. The magnificence of these trees is breathtaking, and one couldn't begin to count all the different types and shades of green. It was a sight which I will never forget.

After trying for a number of years to attend one of the camps, imagine my surprise and delight when I was asked if I would like to attend one last Whitsun being run by Mr. W. M. C. Hargreaves, Club Organiser of the Spastics Society. I almost jumped out of my chair in a rush to accept.

I am the world's worst at getting up in the morning, but on the morning of departure I was up at dawn, to make sure of catching the 8.30 a.m. train to London. At Park Crescent my escort left me, and for the first time in my life I was on my own amongst a lot of strangers. I must admit I felt more than a little scared, but this was soon rectified by a young lady, herself spastic, who was there to meet us, and soon had us introduced to one another, and did her best to make us feel at home. A few minutes later we were all struggling, heaving and pushing one another, in a friendly way, of course, to board the coach that was taking us to the camp site near Farnham in Surrey. You could possibly picture the scene better, if I were to tell you that my fellow campers,

of which there were about 40, were quite heavily disabled spastics, half of us in wheelchairs, accompanied by only three able-bodied young men.

There were to be many reminders, during the coming week, that being in a wheelchair didn't mean you couldn't do the every-day jobs incurred in running a camp, such as peeling potatoes, washing-up, laying tables, cooking, collecting firewood and also enjoying such activities as boating, horse riding, swimming, cricket and football. If needed there was a small but very able band of willing helpers headed by Mr. Hargreaves ready to step in at the right moments.

The evenings, when the weather allowed, were spent round a gorgeous camp fire singing the old favourites and sipping hot cocoa, or if it was wet we enjoyed taking part in Twenty Questions, Juke Box Jury and Pop Sessions.

One of the most eventful days for me was Monday, when after enjoying a plateful of porridge, followed by a helping of egg and bacon, with bread, marmalade and a mug of tea (don't usually eat breakfast), I discovered that my job for the day entailed looking after tents and canvas. Well, as it obviously would have been so difficult for me, I swapped around and did some washing-up. Some days there would be as many as five of us in wheelchairs around the sink. There was no fear of any breakages as they were plastic mugs and tin plates. The helpers must have got back-

ache from picking up the items which were for ever being knocked on the ground. When we had completed the job—two hours later!—we gathered round the flag pole for a short service and then the entire camp converged on the swimming pool. For years I had wanted to have a go at swimming, but the doctors wouldn't hear of it, a helper saw me looking longingly at the water, 'You'd like to go in, wouldn't you?' she asked. 'Er, I don't know. They would never let me before' I said, for now the chance was so near I was half afraid. 'But you would like to?' 'I've no costume' I said, trying to make excuses. 'Oh, we'll soon find you one', she replied. Gosh, would it really be as easy as all that! No doctors, nor anyone to stop me! It seemed too good to be true, great excitement a few minutes later, as I found myself being stuffed into a costume, lifted into a chair (designed for these occasions?) and wheeled into the water. (Oh, gee, I forgot to mention the large rubber tyre that was put on me, without which I'd have been lost.) What an odd feeling not to be lifted out of the chair, but just float from it! They had warned me it would be cold and by golly it was, I wouldn't have liked to have seen my face just then! I couldn't get my breath at first but after a few minutes it felt smashing. When I had calmed down after kicking, splashing and yelling, rather like a child, they let me float around on my own, which was marvellous. An hour later found me wrapped up warm, clutching my straw through which I was drinking hot sweet tea and digesting another experience, which I had though only a couple of hours ago would never be mine. I'll hasten to add, that come rain or shine I was in the pool every day after that, with my rubber tyre, of course.



No smoke without a fire, and no fire without some logs



# London member visits Dutch Guide Camp

by  
Mary Flack

LAST SUMMER I was chosen by Guide Headquarters in London to represent the English Handicapped Post Rangers at a Dutch Guide Camp. In exchange, a Dutch Ranger was entertained by the English Rangers.

I flew out to Amsterdam and was warmly welcomed by a Dutch Commissioner. We drove to the Camp Centre at Baarn near Hilversum. This centre is a large house set in a wood. It is devoted entirely to accommodating handicapped Rangers, Guides and Brownies who are known as *Bluebirds*, thus the name of the centre is *Bluebird House*.

I stayed at *Bluebird House* for a week. During that time, the house was officially opened. It was a gift from Queen Juliana of the Netherlands. It was a very important occasion witnessed by high ranking Guide officials and also by the people who



Miss Mary Flack

had built the house. For the ceremony the patrol to which I was attached put on a camp cooking display.

It was tremendous fun at *Bluebird House*. In the morning we did all the chores, cooking, cleaning, etc., which never seem like work at camp. For the rest of the day, we visited neighbouring villages or went for treasure hunts in the woods. Winning patrol won prizes.

## Camp Fires

In the evenings we sat on logs around enormous camp fires. We sang songs in many languages. I taught them English songs. The singing went on gaily till very late. One night we made pancakes which were so tasty that we kept eating till 1 a.m.

At the end of this week I went to Alphen aan den Rhijn with one of the guiders from the camp. I stayed with her family for a week and experienced life in a Dutch home. The Dutch are home-loving people and I felt very much at home with them. The family surname was Vis. The father was an architect. He and his charming wife had five daughters. While I was there they told me I was, and I really felt, like their sixth daughter.

The Vis family took me on many outings. I went to The Hague one evening and visited Madurodam, a famous model village containing all the famous buildings of Holland. We went to Holland's first international bird-park called Avifauna. Also we went to the seaside at Katwijk aan Zee. These visits were enjoyable but I think I enjoyed most of all just living in the friendly atmosphere of the Dutch home. The Dutch people are very helpful, kind and friendly.

I was sorry when it was time to go home. I had made lots of friends both at the *Bluebird Camp* and at Alphen with my Vis family. It was a holiday to remember and one which I shall never forget.

## On Being Asked Why I Looked So Sad

My face;  
The Mirror of my soul  
Or Mask.  
A new happiness  
Might radiate  
And show a smile—  
But a smouldering fire  
Throws no more sparks,  
And turns a face inwards  
When not communicating joy.  
LISE BAYER.

## A SUCCESSFUL NOTTINGHAM CONFERENCE

EVERYBODY seems to have been very pleased with the way the Conference went, and it was well covered by the Press, and Bill Hargreaves was on the air, on B.B.C. Midland Service.

No less than seventeen spastics attended from countries overseas, Canada, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Australia, Sweden and Denmark.

For a full account of the proceedings see next month's 'Spastics News'.

## a rude letter to the Editor (from the Editor's husband!)

Dear Editor,

I feel I must comment on your Editorial in the February edition of the '62 Club News. At the risk of getting chased round the flat by my better half. I would like to give a good deal of adverse criticism as asked for.

The main thing is that the news is just another part of its parent paper, the SPASTICS NEWS, which, is I think, one of the most boring Magazines published. Unless you happen to be a doctor, psychologist or nurse, or even someone interested in looking at large piles of pennies being knocked over in pubs!

This however cannot be avoided at the moment if we want our own paper at all, but I have grave doubts about the fact that it is wanted.

I wonder how many Club members, or any spastics for that matter, are in fact going to read it? I know that if I was not married to the Editor I would not have bothered to read it. Someone is going to ask why, well I will tell them. You don't need to, you know what you are going to see before you have even opened the front page. Let me give you an idea of what I mean.

The next edition which I have not seen,



No meals without cooking, and no potatoes without peeling





Mr. and Mrs. Peter West (history does not relate whether this photograph was taken before or after Marianne received the letter printed herewith!)

will have the following: *Page 1*. Editorial telling us that two more '62 Clubs have started in places like Land's End and John O' Groats and that they have got an interesting programme of socials, bingo outings, film shows and talks. The Editor will go on to remind you of a coming camping holiday and tell you what a jolly time we all had at the last one. Also on page one will be a report from a Club telling everyone what a jolly time they had at their last social and that the programme for the future will have socials, bingo, outings, film shows and talks.

On *page 2*, we have report from a Club member on the jolly time he or she had while they were on the camping holiday last summer, also on page two, a report from a Club in Wales saying what a jolly time they all had at their last social, and that the future programme will consist of socials, bingo, outings, film shows and talks.

On *page 3*, well, now we have something rather interesting!—Yes, someone is telling us all about a jolly camping holiday they had the summer before last. Oh yes, and a report from another Club telling us all about the interesting programme they have planned, with socials, bingo, outings, film shows and talks.

I think you will have got the point by now, at least my Wifely Editor has. She has not spoken to me since reading this.

What all this boils down to is, that we are not grown up enough to write anything in the least original that has any appeal to anyone reading this Club Magazine (*So called*).

PETER WEST.

(*Well, what can I say?—Editor*)

# Thirty-six '62 Clubs

## THE SECRETARIES AND ADDRESSES

### BEDFORD Y.A.S.

MR. LARRY J. YORK,  
16 Cedar Road, Bedford, Beds.

### BEXLEY & DISTRICT

MR. GEORGE A. LLOYD,  
167 Maiden Lane, Crayford, Kent.

### BOURNEMOUTH

MISS ANN BLADES,  
145 Ringwood Road, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset.

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MR. DAVID GILBY,  
6 Hayes Close, West Wickham, Kent.

### BRISTOL/BATH & DISTRICT

MR. STUART T. D. TURNBULL,  
2 Priory Road, Keynsham, Bristol.

### CARDIFF

MISS KENIS FLYNN,  
19 Syr Davids Avenue, Pencisely, Cardiff,  
S. Wales.

### CHESTER

MR. D. F. DWELLY,  
24 Linksway, Upton, Chester.

### COVENTRY

MISS MARGARET ELLIOTT,  
Y.W.C.A., Hostel, The Butts, Coventry.

### CREWE

MRS. E. DIXON,  
65 Newfield Drive, Crewe.

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MR. A. M. STROJNA,  
'Numberfive', Marlborough Road, Waterloo,  
Liverpool 22.

### CUMBERLAND

MR. JOHN LEVIESLEY,  
Scalesceugh Hall, Carleton, Carlisle.

### DERBY

MR. TIMOTHY E. MARTIN,  
56 Littleover Lane, Derby.

### FALMOUTH & DISTRICT GROUP SOCIAL CLUB

MR. ALEX PASSMORE,  
2 New Row, Mylor Bridge, Nr. Falmouth,  
Cornwall.

### HERNE BAY

MISS JEANNIE HEMSTED,  
20 Mickleburgh Hill, Herne Bay, Kent.

### THE GET-TOGETHER CLUB OF ILFORD

MISS PATRICIA BERRY,  
128 Lancaster Drive, Elm Park, Hornchurch,  
Essex.

### LANCASTER & MORECAMBE

MR. ANTHONY McCORKELL (Chairman),  
100 Dorrington Road, Greaves, Lancaster, Lancs.

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15 Coleridge Drive, Narborough, Leicester.

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N.3

### NORTH-WEST LONDON

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### NOTTINGHAM

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MR. A. J. CARMEN,  
346 Padgate Lane, Padgate, Warrington.

### WINCHESTER

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Bluebird Caravan, 14 Upper Bullington,  
Sutton Scotney, Nr. Winchester.

### YORK

MISS C. HEWITT,  
Flat 8, Cecilia Place, York, Yorks.



# Development of a Blind Spastic Child

(Continued from p. 9)

pist reported, 'We feel that tremendous progress has been made in the two months Karen has been with us'

Our staff was convinced by that time that although Karen was delayed in physical, emotional, social, and mental growth, this delayed development was not due to grossly impaired intellectual capacity, but rather to delayed maturation caused by her physical disabilities. These disabilities had prevented her from exploring and learning as would a normal infant and had stood in the way of her forming normal affectional relationships with her parents. Due to the cerebral palsy, Karen appeared to be deprived even of the tactile impressions, language modality, and other tools necessary for development, in addition to her lack of vision. New avenues of approach had to be found, since the child appeared to display normal intellectual ability as judged by her rate of progress in a favourable setting.

By the end of her sixth year, Karen was enjoying many kinds of play activity such as riding on a sled; swinging; riding in a wagon; riding a tricycle; trying to dance; and engaging in social, creative, and imaginative play. She gradually acquired language facility with the help of a speech therapist. Thus it became clearly apparent

that her lack of language for the first four years of her life was due to deprivation of stimulation and emotional blocking, rather than to a primary aphasia. When she was seven the recommendation was made that, despite formal testing at a mentally retarded level, she should be placed in school at the first grade level. The following year she was enrolled in the residential state school for the blind, where she adapted well to a residential school programme. The school requires academic achievement, and she has met the challenge.

When Karen was six, the foster parents were having marital difficulties and were considering separation; thus they were not ideal for Karen, but despite that, they were able to give her emotional security and even excessive love. She was too often babied and treated like a doll, rather than a growing girl. The Cottons were anxious to show off her accomplishments when she came into the project for examination. They took pride in her and enjoyed having her recite nursery rhymes, songs, and lists of words to show off her vocabulary. Periodically other foster children were taken into the household, perhaps making Karen feel insecure at times, but also giving her other children with whom to relate. By this time Karen had made sufficient intellectual progress that there was no longer any question about her placement in a state institution; and her foster parents decided to keep her, although they could not adopt her legally.

From the age of four to ten years, Karen received a consistently good programme of physical therapy and was in a stimulating school environment where she also could get special attention and help for specific problems, such as speech therapy and physiotherapy. She was in a fairly stable, though conflictual, foster home environment after early parental rejection.

At the present time Karen has turned into an affable, lovable girl of seemingly normal intelligence, with a very bright verbal ability and a keen sense of humour. She no longer appears to give any evidence of emotional difficulty, and she is rapidly catching up in the academic areas. She is eager to learn, has confidence in herself, and has a realistic understanding of her problems in the area of blindness and physical handicap. Despite Karen's gross multiple physical handicaps, including blindness, spastic quadriplegia, and severe hearing disorder, she has been able to compete and progress.

## Inner Courage

Karen has had much help from individuals and agencies, but she herself had the inner courage and drive toward growth. Her excellent progress to date was predicted on the basis of her early curiosity about the smell of things and people in her environment, as is so often seen in blind children with normal intelligence at the age of two or three years. She is a child who at the age of three might have been placed in an institution for the mentally handicapped and there may possibly have led a wasted life with very little realisation of intellectual growth or emotional well being.

Karen's gross neurological impairment, which is also reflected in a generalised abnormal electroencephalogram, has not affected her ability to make normal emotional and (with some allowances) academic adjustment. She started out as a child who was kept in a crib in a completely helpless condition, suffering from the effects of severe isolation and neglect. There is no single factor responsible for the resolution of her early problems; but the fact that many people in community agencies co-operated in providing diagnostic skill, specialised therapy, and guidance shows what can be done in severe cases. The main credit goes to Karen herself, her positive yearning and reaching for the happy and meaningful in life. However, without the sound support and perhaps emotional over indulgence of her foster parents, there would have been little chance for a successful outcome. Karen's case should encourage patient diagnosis and co-operation among specialists with managing social agencies to bring out the best potential in children with gross multiple handicaps.

(Reprinted by Courtesy of 'Exceptional Children' Magazine, Washington, D.C.)

## Electric Typewriters for Ysgol Gogarth



Mr. J. F. Williams (left), Chairman of the Colwyn Bay and District S.S., and Mr. N. O. Davies, Headmaster of Ysgol Gogarth, Llandudno, and North Wales School, watch one of the pupils trying out an electric typewriter presented by the Group



# From Westminster To Greenwich



by  
**Victor Hancox**  
(Coombe Farm)

—he also paints

IT WAS PLEASANT to sit on the pier head at Greenwich eating a sandwich lunch and watching the ships from the four corners of the earth pass on their way to London. The sun beat down from the heavens. On that June 14th it seemed that it was our whole summer! The different tones of ships' hooters was the only sound that broke the silence.

The time was 12 noon we had caught the 10.30 Thames Launch at Westminster Bridge, after being shaken out of our wits from a run down the ramp to the pier, all seven residents were loaded with coats or sweaters. In midstream of the river Thames, even on a warm day like that, the breeze could be rather chilly. As we stepped on the good launch *Petersham* it started to sway and the first few moments we felt like getting back onto dry land again. Mrs. Weatherill and Mr. Moore took some film and nearly fell overboard!

As we pulled away from the pier the guide's voice came over the loudspeaker, telling us that the large building in front of us was the Greater London County Council's Headquarters. To our left was Victoria Embankment, on the other side of which was New Scotland Yard and Somerset House, where all the births, marriages and deaths are recorded.

We then passed under the first of eight bridges—Hungerford Bridge. A railway bridge to Charing Cross Station. The modern building of the Royal Festival Hall to our right met our eyes on the other side.

## Ancient and Modern

From the level of the river, the ancient and modern building of London silhouetted against the summer sky makes an inspiring picture. Waterloo Bridge soon passed over our heads. To our left, besides this bridge, the River Police have their headquarters. It is built on a floating platform and has small cells underneath. The prisoners would need frogmen's outfits to escape!

Every so often, a barge passed by laden with cargo from ships in the docks further down stream, on their way to towns like Windsor. Along the bank on our left, still the Victoria Embankment, we could see anchored the ships, S.S. *Discovery*, H.M.S. *President*, and a few other ships which have served the country and are now used as either museums or seamen's clubs. The City stood on the background with Temple Bar leading from the Embankment.

As we sailed up to Blackfriars Bridge, we learned from the guide that there was once an Abbey on the South bank. Progress called for a bridge and that spot was the most convenient. The Abbey was pulled down, but the stones helped to build the bridge. The architect designed the underside of the bridge in the style of a

church interior which commemorates the Abbey.

Passing from under a railway bridge, leading to Blackfriars Station, we had a good view of St. Paul's. Its dome, high above the other buildings, gave this great masterpiece of Christopher Wren's a look of majesty. Across the river on the South bank we could see a small dingy house tucked between the row of warehouses. This, we was told, was where Wren lived while St. Paul's was being built.

As we neared Southwark Bridge, the guide pointed to a slope on the left bank and some steps in the right bank next to the bridge. Elizabeth I used to ascend these steps after crossing the river by boat to watch Shakespeare's plays. Southwark Bridge didn't exist in those days. Southwark Cathedral shows its square tower above the bridge.

## Dome Removed

Cannon Street Station once had a glass dome, but during the war, the people were afraid that it would get bombed, so they took the dome down and stored it in a cellar. The cellar was badly bombed and Cannon Street Station still stands untouched. This piece of information came over the loudspeaker as we sailed under the railway bridge and looked up at the roofless station on our left.

The next bridge we came to, was the oldest crossing place across the Thames; London Bridge. There have been many London Bridges. The present one is a little under a hundred years old. In days gone by, London Bridge was a small shopping centre with shops along it. Today, it's just a main road. The old song, 'London Bridge is Falling Down' is partly true, as the supports are slowly sinking in the mud. Four inches every eight years. A new and wider bridge is about to be built alongside the old. This spot is as far as ships can go up river. We now entered the Pool of London. Large ships were anchored along the dock side.

In front of us, we could see Tower Bridge, with its tall towers towering above a background of cranes in the docks beyond. On the North bank of the bridge was the Tower of London.

Passing from under this tall bridge, which looks like a gateway to the Pool of London, the scene which met our eyes was different. Both banks were covered with waving cranes. It looked to me like a forest of pine trees swaying in the wind. These showed the beginning of the London Docks. The river stretched for over four miles in a large 'U' shape round the docks. Behind the piles of wood lying in storage along the banks, we could see funnels of large sea going ships of all nationalities. A few other ships passed us. Some had flags on top of their masts. We



were told that this meant they wanted Tower Bridge to be opened.

The masts of the old *Cutty Sark* in dry dock besides Greenwich pier told us we were nearing the end of our voyage. It was 12 noon when we were pushed up the ramp onto the pier. The coach had brought our chairs by road.

We were due at the Maritime Museum at two o'clock, so after lunch we went for a ride to the Observatory. Before boarding the coach, however, a few of us went for a walk round the *Cutty Sark* and the keeper on the gang plank invited us to look round the middle-deck. The ship was used for trade and carrying tea and wool from China and the Far East. The cargo was stored on the middle and lower decks, while the crew lived up on the top deck. The rigging looked a mass of ropes, ladders and three masts reaching high above. I would loved to have seen it in full sail. The *Cutty Sark* is now a small museum of the sea.

Greenwich Park is on a hill and the Observatory is at the top. This was where time was checked, but the Royal Observatory has now moved to the Sussex Downs. The building now belongs to the Maritime Museum. We walked round and from a balcony round the now empty observatory building, we could see for miles across London. The river stretched out before us, showing the course we had taken that morning.

### The Maritime Museum

Two guides met us at the Maritime Museum, after our coach had squeezed through the gates, and went into the sea-faring part. I was surprised to find all the walls covered with paintings. Captain Cook's history and belongings were in the first two rooms we visited. On his second voyage to the South Seas, Captain Cook took an artist who painted scenes and happenings like the modern day cameras, so we can see what actually happened.

We went round a number of other rooms which were devoted to Lord Nelson. Huge masterpieces portraying his battles, covered the walls. In glass cases were his belongings, even the clothes he wore when he was killed at Trafalgar.

To end the visit to the Museum, we went into a large hall. Here we saw large models of every kind of ship, ancient and modern.

Both staff and residents were exhausted by the time we had all piled back into the coach. Then came the best part of the day. Round the corner came someone carrying a tray of tea. This was what we had been longing for.

We arrived back at Coombe Farm just as the other residents were finishing work, at 4.45. 'They go on joy rides while we work', they said. If they knew how we felt, they wouldn't have said that.

## 'The Cutty Sark'

lying at anchor off Greenhithe



*This picture, taken in 1953, shows The Cutty Sark before she was found a permanent berth at Greenwich. She was the last of the famous Clipper ships on the regular service from China and Australia with tea and wool, and the latter part of the 19th century. A successful appeal for funds has enabled her to be preserved as a memorial to the great days of the square-riggers*



# What Residential Care?

## Dr. Duncan Leys reviews the choice open to parents

DOCTORS ARE OFTEN ASKED by the parents of handicapped children about residential care in homes or hospitals away from the family. Doctors are also often accused (sometimes, especially in the past, with justice) of a too great readiness to advise parents to have their children 'put away'. There are, of course, many instances when it has been impossible for a mentally handicapped child to remain in his own home without risking a breakdown in health for his mother and the actual break-up of the family. Residential care has sometimes been the deliberate choice of parents who knew that they would otherwise never have dared to have other children. The conditions under which such children have been cared for have often been very bad; hospitals for mental deficiency have been called the 'Cinderella' of the health service: less money has been spent on them per patient than for any other kind of hospital.

### The Royal Commission

This state of affairs is only slowly improving, in spite of strong recommendations for reform made by the Royal Commission of 1958 and the powers given to hospital and local authorities by the act of parliament which followed it. But the worst deficiency of service has been the almost total lack of what is now called 'community care', i.e. services which could share the responsibility of care with a family. True, the number of places in special schools and training centres has been increased and training facilities for staff somewhat improved. The schools are intended for the less severely affected children and are organised by the local education committee, the training centres are for children with greater handicaps and are under the local health committee. But the Commission recommended the rapid development of small homes for about 20 children, which could avoid the 'institutional' atmosphere of the big mental deficiency hospitals, both for children who were so badly injured that they required nursing (these to be under the hospital authority) and also, for children who could spend some part of their lives with their families, hostels under the local councils, sited near the children's homes. Very little

has been done to provide these, or to make places available in day nurseries, or to supply the equivalent of home helps to families who do keep their handicapped children at home.

It ought to be possible for parents, having had the best advice available, to make a careful choice, having regard to the total needs of their family, as to how much of their handicapped child's life should be spent at home and how much in school, day or boarding, much as a prosperous family will decide which of their children should go to day school, which to boarding school and which, perhaps, as weekly boarders. Doctors have been and still are placed in the invidious position, when their advice is asked, of knowing that this choice is not really available to the average family with a handicapped child, since the number of places in homes and hospitals which they can whole-heartedly recommend, is inadequate, and there are long waiting lists of families whose need is often really desperate.

One really good reform has taken place, however, i.e. the abolition of certification; hospitals for children with mental handicap are now on the same footing as other hospitals and can, in theory at least, accept a child for longer or shorter periods according to the needs of the child, of the family, and of the wishes of the parents. There is little doubt that relatively few children would need to be in hospital if 'community services' had been developed to a point at which parents could feel sure not only that their child was receiving the best care and education (which would almost always mean that he was at least seeing a lot of his family, and for the most part actually living at home), but that neither they themselves nor their other children were under such strain from lack of help that the health and harmony of the family was prejudiced. Very often this is actually true; there is a day nursery or special school or training centre within reach, and the service is of a high order; the child himself is *not* felt as a burden in the family; he *is* seen to be achieving a limited independence, enough for everyone to be reasonably optimistic about his future, and there *is* a reliable counsellor.

## Book Review

# SPASTIC SCHOOL LEAVERS

*Published by The Society at 5/-*

MANY PEOPLE who work with spastics must wonder what happens to them when they leave school. Do they all get jobs? Do they stay in their jobs? Do they integrate well in society? Do they lead full, happy lives within the limits of their handicaps?

To answer questions such as these the (then) British Council for the Welfare of Spastics made a survey of 54 London school leavers over the first five years after they left school (1957 to 1962). There are seven sections in the survey: Educational background; Contact with Statutory and Voluntary bodies; Assessment, Training and Employment; Provision for the Unemployed; Residential Care; Social; Comments and Suggestions.

Although the Survey reveals how much has been done for the benefit of spastics it also brings to light facts that should not leave anyone in doubt that there is much more to be done. It would appear that many of the school leavers did not in fact maximise their potential at school; that many are immature on leaving school; some have very unrealistic ideas about work and their abilities. Although thirty-three of the group settled in jobs it was found that even more could be employed if there were sufficient sheltered workshops. One of the most depressing facts in the survey is that only twelve of the group were leading full, socially integrated lives; eighteen of the group had no social life, no friends and were restricted to their families for social activities.

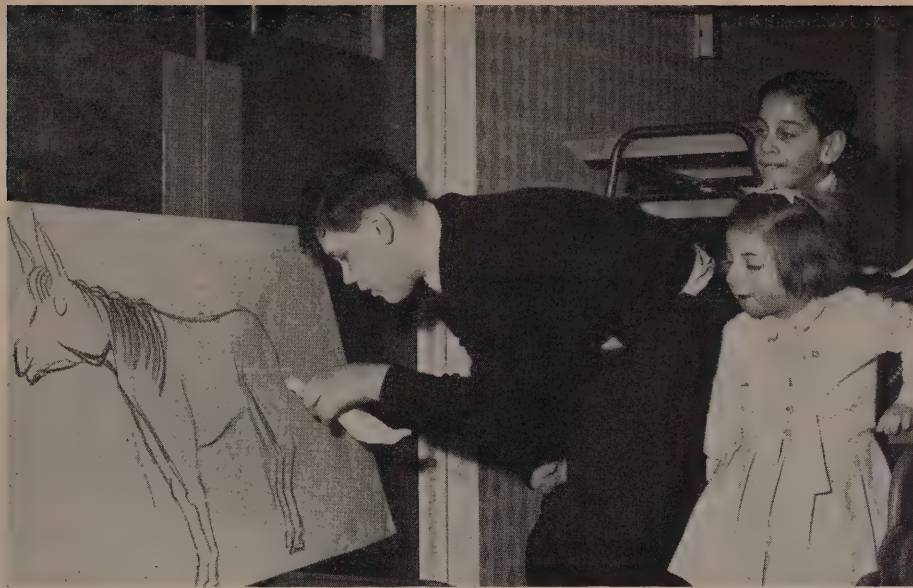
The survey shows that whilst many parents do accept the handicaps of their children there are many who have unrealistic ideas about their child's abilities; many who are unaware of the services available for spastics; and many who regarded Residential Care with hostility.

The survey should be of interest and value to all people concerned with spastics. By careful study of the survey educators and welfare workers should be able to see where their work is strong and where it needs building up.

Perhaps in the near future a more comprehensive survey will be made, covering those spastics who do not have all the facilities that London offers.

M. J. Alcott.





(Courtesy: Wolverhampton Express)

**WOLVERHAMPTON GETS GOING:** at a party given by Wolverhampton and District S.S., spastic children had to put the tail on the donkey. Here Peter Smith is watched by Edward Dodd and Wendy Lewis. The Society hope to raise enough money for a centre and Dr. Margaret Griffiths put the cost at about £40,000

## The handicapped child and his home

by **MARY SHERIDAN**

Reviewed by **M. J. Alcott**

Published by National Children's Home at 7s. 6d.

THIS IS THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S HOME Convocation Lecture for 1965, delivered by Dr. Mary Sheridan. In the short span of 63 pages Dr. Sheridan has compressed the essentials of her own ideas on this subject based on many years of active work 'in the field'. The result is a condensed, stimulating book that will be of interest and value to doctors, teachers, social workers and parents of handicapped children.

In her prologue Dr. Sheridan states: 'This lecture is not a professional thesis. It is a personal testament.' She writes concisely of what she has discovered from her own experience and if some of her ideas are controversial they are 'the result of hard-won and sometimes melancholy experience'.

Throughout the book one is aware of a person with enormous sympathy and compassion for handicapped children and their parents and, at the same time, a person with deep knowledge and sound commonsense. Dr. Sheridan is realistic in her attitudes and hopes. From a reading of this book ideas can be clarified; attitudes can be made more realistic; enthusiasm and hope for the future provisions for handicapped children can be stimulated.

Early in the book (p. 13) Dr. Sheridan lists seven basic provisions that Society must make for the handicapped child: Early Identifications; Complete Assessment; Prompt Medical & Surgical treat-

ment; Parent Guidance; Suitable Education; Follow-up & Periodic Reassessment; Final Placement in the Community or in Special Care. The major part of the book is a more detailed study of these seven points.

This is not the place to summarise Dr. Sheridan's book. No doubt much of what she writes will be familiar to many people concerned with handicapped children but the clarity of her writing and the concise turn of phrase make many things clearer. One reads something and says, 'Yes, that's true!' but one hadn't formulated the idea so succinctly before. For example, the careful wording of her definition of a handicapped child stimulates thought and clarifies one's ideas:

*"A handicapped child may be defined as one who suffers from any continuing disability of body, intellect or personality which is likely to interfere with his normal growth, development and capacity to learn."*—(p. II).

Who could not profit from a close study of that definition?

When she states that:

*"In one sense every handicapped child suffers from multiple disabilities, since however simple and straightforward the diagnosis may seem (an obvious congenital malformation of the hand for instance, or a severe congenital deafness), further examination will usually reveal that by reason of deprivation of common experience the*

## Youth Club for Ponds

THIS MONTH I have been asked to write a little about Ponds Youth Club. The idea actually started a few months ago when the Christian Fellowship Group visited Chesham Youth Club for a social evening. Another afternoon some of us attended the Chenies Youth Club. We showed them slides and film of our Swedish holiday last year, and they also showed us a film of their holiday. A return visit was made a couple of weeks ago by the Chesham Communicants Youth Group.

All this time the idea of Ponds Youth Club was slowly growing and at last we decided to see what we could do. The first meeting was to outline the future running of the club. It was suggested that we should have a committee to decide what activities should take place at our meetings. As soon as we had started the club we sent an application to join the National Association of Youth Clubs. On 27th March three of the committee went to a conference at Great Missenden. The theme was 'People outside Youth Clubs.' The object of Ponds Youth Club is very simple—to get more outside contacts—and I think it will do that.

LINTON EDWARDS.

*child is intellectually retarded, or by reason of his difficulties in social adaptation, he is emotionally disturbed."*—(p. 28),

one is made aware of the complexity of the problem of a handicapped child. Couple with this:

*"It is no exaggeration to say that in the background of every individual handicapped child there is always a handicapped family"*—(p. 44).

One is now aware of the fullness of the problem. A handicapped child presents a whole complex of medical, educational, social, and possibly psychiatric problems. Dealing with handicapped children is no simple matter and workers must be trained to see all the dimensions of the problem. This book will help in this respect.

The book closes with an appeal:

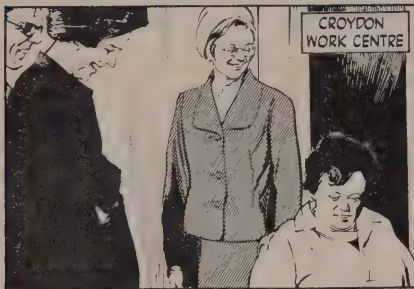
*"It must be the responsibility of those of us who appreciate the long struggles of the parents of handicapped children and who realize their loneliness, not only to offer personal help, but to awaken the national conscience on their behalf."*—(p. 63).

This slim volume should help all those who work with handicapped children to make the incision into the 'national conscience' a little deeper and to hasten the day when such children 'are accepted as a matter of course by their neighbours and to feel the comforting warmth of their friendship and willing service'.



# The Spastics' Cr

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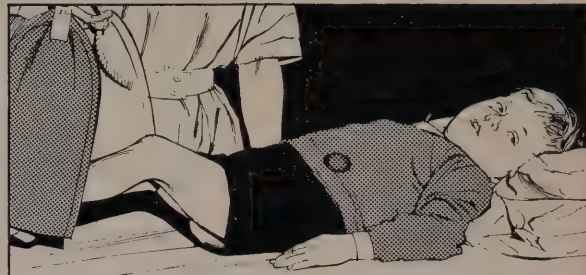


TO BE OPENED SHORTLY BY PRINCESS MARINA - THE MEADWAY WORKS, BIRMINGHAM. EVERY WORKER WILL BE A SPASTIC. IT IS THE 100TH. SCHOOL, CENTRE OR HOME OPENED BY THE SPASTICS SOCIETY SINCE 1951.



BRITAIN HAS 75,000 SPASTICS. ONE IS BORN EVERY EIGHT HOURS. WITH A DAMAGED BRAIN. MESSAGES DON'T REACH MUSCLES. ARMS, LEGS, OR AREAS OF THE BODY CANNOT BE CONTROLLED.

WITHOUT SPECIAL TRAINING, MANY SPASTICS ARE HELPLESS. CAN TAKE NO PART IN LIFE. CANNOT EVEN DRESS OR FEED THEMSELVES.



THIS TRAINING IS NOT YET PROVIDED BY THE WELFARE STATE. IT HAS TO BE RUN, AND PAID FOR, BY THE SPASTICS SOCIETY.

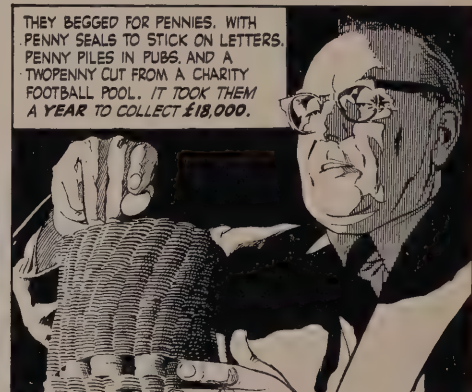
1952. HOLBORN, LONDON. THE SPASTICS SOCIETY CALLED A NATIONAL MEETING. A ST. MARGARET'S PARENT PROPOSED A SPASTICS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL. A COVENTRY BUS DRIVER JUMPED UP: "MY CHILD'S GOT NO SCHOOL AT ALL."



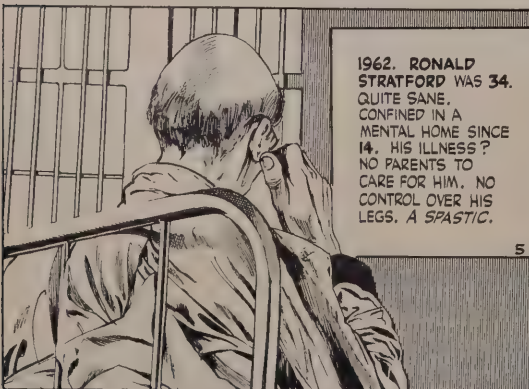
SUGGESTIONS SNOWBALLED. FOR NURSERIES, CLINICS, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, WORK CENTRES, HOSTELS. THEY VOTED TO BUILD THEM ALL. AND COLLECT THE CASH TO GIVE THEIR HOPELESSLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN A CHANCE.



THEY BEGGED FOR PENNIES. WITH PENNY SEALS TO STICK ON LETTERS. PENNY PILES IN PUBS. AND A TWOPENNY CUT FROM A CHARITY FOOTBALL POOL. IT TOOK THEM A YEAR TO COLLECT £18,000.



1962. RONALD STRATFORD WAS 34. QUITE SANE. CONFINED IN A MENTAL HOME SINCE 14. HIS ILLNESS? NO PARENTS TO CARE FOR HIM. NO CONTROL OVER HIS LEGS. A SPASTIC.



THE SPASTICS SOCIETY TOOK HIM OVER. HOUSED HIM. WEST RUISLIP GROUP TRAINED HIM, FOUND HIM A JOB ON A RIVETING MACHINE WITH BELL PUNCH LTD, UXBRIDGE, MIDDLESEX.



1966. HE DRIVES HIS OWN CAR TO WORK. EARNS A NORMAL WAGE. IS SAVING FOR HIS SUMMER HOLIDAY IN ITALY.



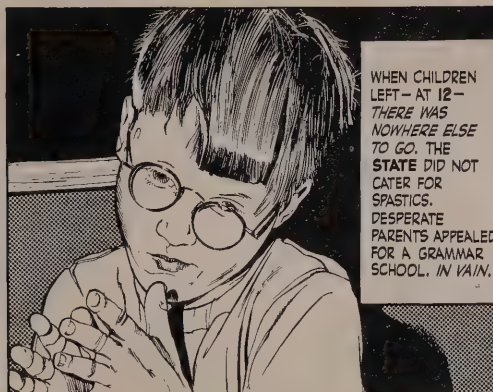
THERE ARE 21 TRAINING CENTRES RUN BY THE SPASTICS SOCIETY. AND THOUSANDS LIKE RONALD STRATFORD.



# ade—in Pictures

**SCRIPT: Neville Randall DRAWINGS: Gary Keane**

1951. A CROYDON BUSINESSMAN HAD SET UP A PIONEER SCHOOL, ST. MARGARET'S. SHOWED THAT SPASTICS CAN BE TAUGHT. PARENTS CLAMoured FOR PLACES. 9 OUT OF 10 WERE TURNED AWAY.

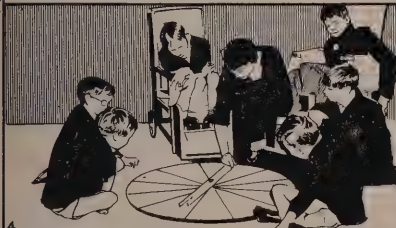


WHEN CHILDREN LEFT—AT 12—THERE WAS NOWHERE ELSE TO GO. THE STATE DID NOT CATER FOR SPASTICS. DESPERATE PARENTS APPEALED FOR A GRAMMAR SCHOOL, IN VAIN.

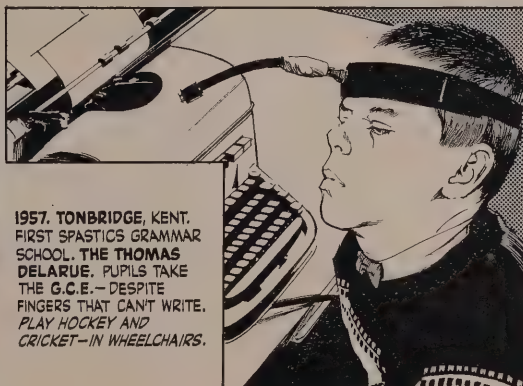
THE PARENTS MET. VOWED TO BUILD THEIR OWN SCHOOL. AND SCHOOLS FOR EVERY SPASTIC CHILD WHO NEEDED ONE. EVEN IF IT COST A MILLION POUNDS. THEIR FUNDS: £5. THE SPASTICS SOCIETY WAS BORN.



1955. INCOME NOW £253,000. ENOUGH TO OPEN THE FIRST BOARDING SCHOOL FOR YOUNG SPASTICS. AT CRAIG-Y-PARC NEAR CARDIFF. ITS MOTTO: 'COURAGE TO PERSEVERE.'

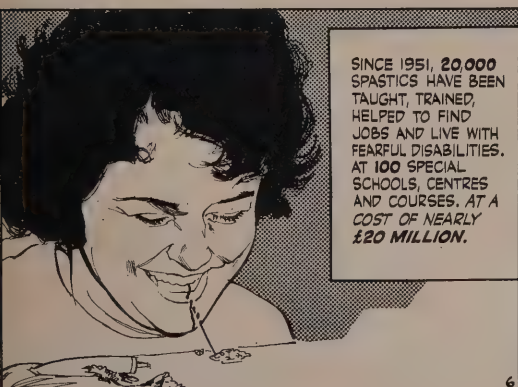
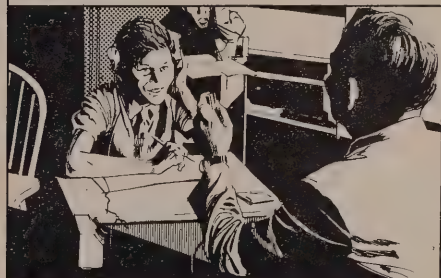


RUN LIKE A NORMAL SCHOOL. EVEN TO A NATIVITY PLAY—WITH SHEPHERDS WHO CRAWLED AND MARY IN A WHEELCHAIR.



1957. TONBRIDGE, KENT. FIRST SPASTICS GRAMMAR SCHOOL. THE THOMAS DELARUE. PUPILS TAKE THE G.C.E.—DESPITE FINGERS THAT CAN'T WRITE. PLAY HOCKEY AND CRICKET—in WHEELCHAIRS.

1958. IRTON HALL, CUMBERLAND. FIRST SCHOOL FOR THE ALMOST HOPELESSLY HANDICAPPED. ONCE THEY HAD NO HOPE. NOW THE DEAF LEARN TO SPEAK. EVERYONE LEARNS SOMETHING, IF ONLY HOW TO LIVE WITH THEIR DISABILITIES.



SINCE 1951, 20,000 SPASTICS HAVE BEEN TAUGHT, TRAINED, HELPED TO FIND JOBS AND LIVE WITH FEARFUL DISABILITIES. AT 100 SPECIAL SCHOOLS, CENTRES AND COURSES. AT A COST OF NEARLY £20 MILLION.

ANOTHER 25,000 SPASTICS STILL NEED THAT TEACHING, TRAINING AND HELP. TO BE SAVED FROM HOPELESS DEPENDENCE ON OTHERS.



TO BUILD SCHOOLS AND CENTRES WHEREVER THEY ARE NEEDED WILL COST THE SPASTICS SOCIETY ANOTHER MILLION POUNDS A YEAR. THE STATE WILL NOT PROVIDE IT. ANOTHER 4d. FROM EVERYONE IN BRITAIN WOULD.





## EMPLOYMENT NEWS

The following news has been received recently:—

**JULIA ARCHER** from Earlsfield, is working as a Tickopres operator for Messrs. Ritter & Horne, Ltd., in Great Portland Street, W.1.

**ALICE ARNULL** from Thurnscoe, is employed as a cleaner and general assistant by a local firm of cutlery manufacturers.

**RUTH EDGAR** from Huyton, has changed her job and is working for Messrs. Bell & Sons, Huyton Industrial Estate—she is learning to plait dog leads.

**TERENCE EGAN** from Great Chesterford, is doing light assembly work for the Tudor Works in Saffron Walden.

**MALCOLM JULIAN** from Shanklin, Isle of Wight, is employed by Messrs. Truecast, in Ryde. He is doing fettling work.

**RONALD MURDOCH** from Leeds, who trained at Messrs. Joseph Lucas, Birmingham, is working as an assembler for the Reward Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

**ANNA RAE** from Muswell Hill, is working at the Spastics Society's Headquarters in London as secretary to Mr. Hargreaves.

**MELVIN REUBEN** from South Woodford, is now working as a computer programmer.

**ERIC RICHARDSON** from Ipswich, has changed his job and is now employed as a porter in St. Helen's Hospital.

**VALERIE ROBINSON** from Cambridge, who trained at the Chester Office Training Centre, is employed in the pre-listing Department of Messrs. Pye, Ltd., Cambridge.

**ARCHIBALD SAVAGE** from Glasgow, has changed his job and is now working locally for a firm of ship pump manufacturers.

**JUNE TAYLOR** from Pontypridd, who trained at Sherrards, is working as an assembly operator for G.E.C. Telecommunications Ltd.

**LYNN TURNER** from Manchester, who trained at the Chester Office Training Centre, is working for Messrs. Hawker Siddeley as a punch card and Hollerith machine operator.

**JOANNA CRAIG-WALLER** from Boldre, has changed her job and is now helping in a local preparatory school.

**PHILIP WAUGH** from Burgess Hill, who trained at Sherrards, is working locally as an injection moulder for Rendar Instruments Ltd.

## Paul gets a job

—after four years

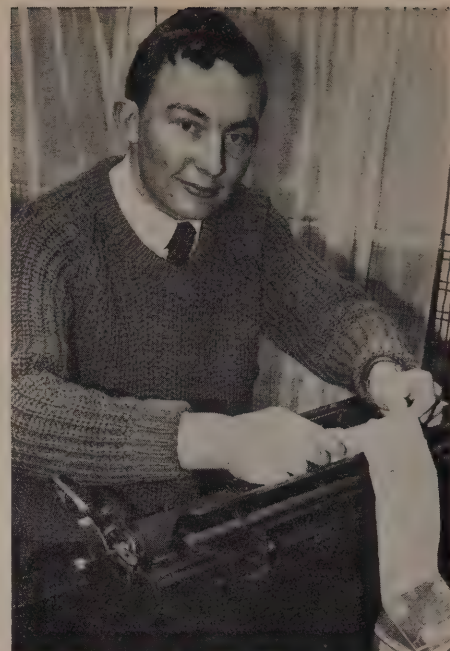
NINETEEN-YEAR-OLD PAUL SYKES of Dringhouses, Yorks, who is chairman of the Youth Club and member of the York & District S.A., has landed a job with a local engineering firm, after four years trying.

Although only lightly spastic he has another disability, but he went through a six-month training course at Chester and emerged with a first-class reference.

He found it difficult to get a job, however, until Mr. Ronald Smith, the chairman of the firm he now works for, heard about him. 'I thought he should be given a chance', said Mr. Smith, 'he will be doing clerical work'. (*If only more employers felt like that!—Ed.*)

When he left school, Paul helped Mr. Jack Blytheway, the Association's Secretary, emptying collecting boxes, and writing out receipts. 'He is one of our successes', says Mr. Blytheway proudly.

His aunt, Mrs. J. A. Smith, of Top



Paul Sykes at his typewriter

Lane, Copmanthorpe, is proud too. 'Paul is thrilled to bits', she said, 'and who wouldn't be after four years!'

## BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER ● ● ●

### MAY

2nd High Brooms Workingmen's Club, High Brooms, Tunbridge Wells, Kent

3rd Catholic Club, Briton Ferry Road, Neath, Glam.

4th Tonypandy Cons. Club, Tonypandy, Rhondda

5th Electricity Welfare Club, Sandy Road, Llanelly

6th United Services Club, Wind Street, Aberdare, Glamorgan

10th Ironopolis Club, Grange Road, Middlesbrough

11th Malleable Club, Norton Road, Stockton-on-Tees

12th Lakes Social Club, Lakes Estate, Redcar, Yorks.

16th Marconi Sports Club, Beehive Lane, Chelmsford

17th Moulscombe Social, Moulscombe Place, Brighton

19th Winton Cons. Club, Wimborne Road, Winton, Bournemouth

F. Davis

J. Rea

J. Rea

J. Rea

J. Rea

J. Gardner and J. Rea

J. Gardner and J. Rea

J. Gardner and J. Rea

J. Gardner and J. Rea

J. Gardner and J. Rea

J. Gardner and J. Rea

## MOBILE EXHIBITION VEHICLE

MAY	Date	Place	Site
Monday	2nd	Cardiff	The Hayes
to			
Saturday	14th		
Monday	16th	Swansea	The Orange Street Car Park
to			
Friday	20th		
Saturday	21st	Swansea	Mumbles
Monday	23rd	Newport	Station Approach
to			
Saturday	28th		
Monday	30th	Merthyr Tydfil	Cysarthfa Park





## MUSIC HATH CHARMS

Dear Editor,

I wonder if other spastics find such pleasure in music as I do?

I first started to listen to classical music during the war, when I was evacuated to a school for cripples and the class I was in used to go and listen to classical music on the radio every Monday afternoon. I went only to get off lying down, which we did every afternoon and which I never liked doing at all, but I wasn't really interested in music. After a while I came to enjoy it and my teacher said I had an ear for music.

When I left school after the war, I was on my own a lot, because my mother had to go out to work. Being on my own, I had the radio to keep me company and very often there would be a concert which I enjoyed. I came to love piano music and still do.

Until recently my favourite composer was Tchaikovsky, and his Piano Concerto

as I think that it is the most beautiful piece of music I have ever heard.

I am not very fond of modern classical music, but I enjoy some of it when I go to the Festival Hall to concerts. I don't like listening to it on the radio; it doesn't seem to hold me somehow.

Thanks to our Warden at Prested Hall, we are lucky enough to go to the Festival Hall often. Sitting watching the conductor directing the orchestra, I feel as if I am in another world. It is a most wonderful feeling. I forget that I am a spastic for a while and my troubles go far away. Only music can do this for me.

Yours sincerely, PAT RAND, Prested Hall, Kelvedon, Essex.



*'I dig you the most'*

## THE SHUT-IN'S DAY

Dear Editor,

The first Sunday in June (June 5th) is the special day set aside each year to remember the sick, aged, housebound, those who are handicapped, the children in schools, training centres, their homes and hospitals, who are unable to take part in the social life of the community. On this day those who are able try to give cheer to these children and people. Books, toys, sweets, magazines, flowers, or just a card would give much pleasure and the wonderful thought that someone cares. They are lonely people, remembrance means so much and how happy the children would be to be remembered.

Yours sincerely, ELSIE HARLEY (Miss), (Vice-President, The Shut-In's Day Association), Sellindge, Ashford, Kent.

## A RADIO IS STOLEN

Dear Editor,

I've just returned from our '62 Club Conference in Nottingham, which I enjoyed very much.

After seeing some friends and others off on their homeward journey, I returned to my room about 5.30, it was then that I discovered that my *Perdio* transistor radio had been taken, I reported it to Mr. Hargreaves but, of course, nothing could be done about it then.

It came as a great shock to me, for I didn't think that we spastics did that kind of thing, and I only hope that it was



*'This cartoon's a bit corny'*

a mistake on somebody's part, and that when they see this letter they will return it to me as soon as possible, for I and a friend with whom I share it are missing it very much.

I would be very pleased and delighted to refund the cost of posting if the person returning it would include their address, which I would keep confidential, and nothing more would be said.

I hope you will be able to publish this letter as soon as possible. Thanking you.

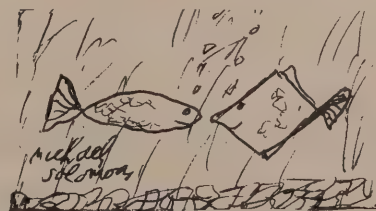
Yours sincerely, S. STILWELL, 'Great-house', Cheshire Home, Kington Langley, Chippenham, Wilts.

## A THANK YOU, LETTER

Dear Editor,

I wish to thank everyone, from the kitchen upwards, for all that is being done at our Centre, which I think is one of the best in the country.

Our Committee are always trying to do what they can by helping the unfortunate ones, from whom we always get a smile. Also I should like to thank, on behalf of everyone of our Group, all the entertain-



*'That's a fishy story'*

ers, who have given their services free at our monthly social.

Our Flag Day will be coming along shortly, which I hope we shall do very well, also we are now preparing for our annual outing to the seaside, which will require three buses. So, hoping all other Groups are as proud of their efforts as we are.

Yours sincerely, A. E. SHELLON, (Hon. Sec.), Friends of Spastics Group, 74 Blake St., Mansfield Woodhouse, Notts.

## PEN PALS

I am nearly 37, and was born a hemiplegic. I studied at London University, but did not finish my degree course.

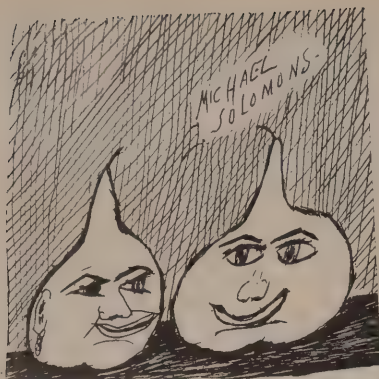
I should be very grateful for pen friends



*'You look a bit phoney, to me'*

I loved, and am very fond of it still. I shall always love his ballet music. But lately, Beethoven has become my favourite composer. I find his music helps me to relax. His Violin Concerto is my favourite





*'Hey, don't you think we'd make a good pear?'*

(either sex), living in Great Britain and any part of the world.

My interests include reading, biography, memoirs, social history, natural history; listening to the wireless—especially to 'serious' music (orchestral and choral works), and to such programmes as quizzes and documentaries.

Yours faithfully, MARION E. T. YOULE (Miss), 58 Grand Drive, Raynes Park, London, S.W.20.



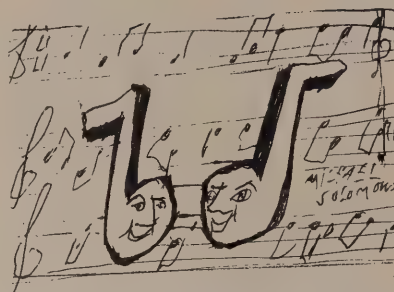
*'You're the apple of my eye'*

### The Presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Bowyer

THE SOCIETY would like it to be known that the cheque presented was in fact subscribed for by senior staff at Headquarters and Heads of Schools and Centres.

### York & District A.G.M.

N.B.—York & District A.G.M. will take place on Wednesday, May 25th, at 7.30 p.m., at York Coffee House. Mr. A. M. Frank (Chief Regional Officer) will show a film and address the meeting.



*'When you go on holiday, don't forget to write me a note'*

The amusing little cartoons shown here, are by a pretty severely handicapped spastic, Michael Solomons. He works at the Foscote Mews, Paddington Work Centre. Apart from drawing, he paints and has composed numerous songs.—The Editor.

## SUBSCRIPTION FORM

for SPASTICS NEWS, the official monthly journal of the Spastics Society covering every aspect of its work and its Affiliated Societies.

Please send me SPASTICS NEWS every month until further notice at the annual subscription rate of 11s., including postage, starting with the.....issue.

I enclose a cheque/Postal Order herewith.

NAME:

(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

ADDRESS:

(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

CUT OUT and send to:

THE EDITOR, SPASTICS NEWS, 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1

## Wanted a House-Parent

A Resident House Mother in this school for severely handicapped children. Preference will be given to someone who has already had experience and is able to take charge of a dormitory and consideration will also be given to people who have had no experience and are willing to train.

Apply: The Headmistress, Ingfield Manor, Five Oaks, Nr. Billingshurst, Sussex.

# Spastic School Leavers

A Survey of  
54 London Spastics  
who left school  
between the years  
1957 & 1962

A record, over a period of years, of what happens to a known group of Spastic school-leavers

Price 5s 0d

Published by:

The Spastics Society  
12, Park Crescent  
London W.1



# SCHOOLS AND CENTRES ADDRESSES

## SCHOOLS

### THE CRAIG-Y-PARC SCHOOL

Pentyrch, Nr. Cardiff.  
Telephone: Pentyrch 397.  
Headmistress: Mrs. C. M. Kearslake.

### THE THOMAS DELARUE SCHOOL

Starvecrow, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge,  
Kent.  
Telephone: Tonbridge 4584.  
Headmaster: Mr. G. D. C. Tudor, M.A.

### INGFIELD MANOR SCHOOL

Five Oaks, Nr. Billingshurst, Sussex.  
Telephone: Billingshurst 2294.  
Headmistress: Miss E. M. Varty.

### IRTON HALL SCHOOL

Holmrook, Cumberland.  
Telephone: Wasdale 202.  
Headmaster: Mr. John Nelson.

### THE WILFRED PICKLES SCHOOL

Tixover Grange, Duddington, Nr. Stamford.  
Telephone: Duddington 212.  
Headmaster: Mr. R. A. Pedder.

### FURTHER EDUCATION CENTRE

Dene Park, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge,  
Kent.  
Telephone: Tonbridge 5101/2.  
Principal: Mr. P. K. Mayhew, M.A.

## ASSESSMENT CENTRE

### HAWKSWORTH HALL

Guiseley, Leeds, Yorks.  
Telephone: Guiseley 2914.  
Principal: Mr. J. D. Johnson.

## ADULT CENTRES

### INDUSTRIAL TRAINING CENTRE SHERRARDS

Digswell Hill, Welwyn, Herts.  
Telephone: Welwyn Garden 22125.  
Principal: Mr. V. Kings, M.I.Prod.E.,  
M.I.Wks.M.

### CHESTER OFFICE TRAINING CENTRE

Western Avenue, Off Saughall Road, Blacon,  
Cheshire.  
Telephone: Chester 26987.

### Stockport Branch

Granville House, Parsonage Road, Heaton  
Moor, Stockport.  
Telephone: Heaton Moor 8776.  
Principal: Mrs. V. S. Parker.

### WAKES HALL (S.O.S.)

Wakes Colne, Nr. Colchester, Essex.  
Telephone: Earls Colne 476.  
Warden: Mr. E. L. Chapleo.

### PRESTED HALL & THE GRANGE

Feering, Kelvedon, Essex.  
Telephone: Kelvedon 482.  
Warden: Mr. J. H. Watson.

### COOMBE FARM

Oaks Road, Croydon, Surrey.  
Telephone: Addiscombe 2310.  
Warden: Mr. E. Udall, M.A.

### PONDS HOME

Seer Green, Beaconsfield, Bucks.  
Telephone: Jordans 2398/9.  
Warden: Mrs. C. Brown.

### BUXTON CENTRE: 'THE BEDFORD'

St. John's Road, Buxton, Derbyshire.  
Telephone: Buxton 3541.  
Warden: Mr. D. H. Simpson.

### OAKWOOD CENTRE

High Street, Kelvedon, Essex.  
Telephone: Kelvedon 208.  
Warden: J. H. Watson, Esq.  
Tutor/Organiser: Mrs. M. L. Birchall, M.A.

### JACQUES HALL CENTRE

Bradfield, Nr. Manningtree, Essex.  
Telephone: WIX 311.  
Warden: Mr. V. P. Devonport.

### DARESBURY HALL

Daresbury, Nr. Warrington, Lancs.  
Telephone: Moore 359.  
Warden: Mr. F. W. Bellman.

### KYRE PARK HOUSE

Tenbury Wells, Worcs.  
Telephone: Kyre 282.  
Warden: Mr. W. R. Barley.

## HOLIDAY HOTELS

### ARUNDEL PRIVATE HOTEL

23 The Leas, Westcliff-on-Sea.  
Telephone: Southend 476351.  
Manageress: Miss Fifield.

### THE BEDFONT HOLIDAY HOTEL

Marine Parade West, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex.  
Telephone: Clacton 25230.  
Warden: Mrs. J. P. R. Molyneaux.

### S.O.S. HOLIDAY HOTEL FOR SPASTIC CHILDREN

Colwall Court, Bexhill.  
Telephone: Bexhill 1491.  
Manager: Mr. G. H. Marsh.

## FAMILY HELP UNIT

### THE MOUNT

Elm Bank, Nottingham.  
Telephone: Nottingham 66271-2.  
Warden: Mr. P. E. Habieb.

## STAFF TRAINING CENTRE

### CASTLE PRIORY COLLEGE

Thames Street, Wallingford, Berks.  
Telephone: Wallingford 2551.  
Principal and Director of Studies:  
Mrs. J. W. Knowles, B.A.

## Schools Affiliated to The Spastics Society

### BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

43 Shrewsbury Road, Oxton, Birkenhead.  
Telephone: Claughton 2583.  
Headmistress: Miss B. Kennedy.

### BIRTENSHAW HALL SCHOOL

Darwen Road, Bromley Cross, Bolton.  
Telephone: Eagley 230.  
Headmaster: Mr. D. A. Hiles.

### DAME HANNAH ROGERS SCHOOL

Ivybridge, Devon.  
Telephone: Ivybridge 461.  
Headmistress: Miss B. G. Sutcliffe.

### PERCY HEDLEY SCHOOL & CENTRE

Forest Hall, Newcastle-on-Tyne 12.  
Telephone: Newcastle 66-5491/2.  
General Secretary: Mr. G. H. Crowther.  
Headmaster: Mr. D. D. Johnston,  
M.A., M.Ed.

### ST. MARGARET'S SCHOOL

Coombe Road, Croydon, Surrey.  
Telephone: Croydon 1434.  
Headmistress: Miss M. A. Budd.



# LOCAL GROUP PROVISION

## NORTH REGION

Barrow-in-Furness and District Spastic and Handicapped Children's Society **C**  
 Berwick-upon-Tweed and District Spastics Society  
 Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness Spastics Society **WORTH**  
 Darlington and District Spastics Society **H**  
 Durham and District Spastics Society  
 South Shields and District Spastics Society **C**  
 Sunderland and District Spastics Society **CW**  
 Tees-side Parents and Friends of Spastics **TE**

### Regional Officer:

Miss E. O'Kelly, 145 Front St., Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham. Tel.: 2852

## YORKSHIRE REGION

Barnsley and District Association **C**  
 Bradford and District Branch **R**  
 Castleford and District Spastics Committee  
 Dewsbury and District Spastics Society  
 Goole and District Spastics Association  
 Halifax and District Spastics Society **W**  
 Huddersfield and District Spastics Society **O**  
 Hull Group, The Friends of the Spastics Society in Hull and District **H**  
 Leeds and District Spastics Society **O**  
 Pontefract and District Spastics Association  
 Rawmarsh and Parkgate Spastics Society  
 Sheffield and District Spastics Society **TOC**  
 York and District Spastics Group **TC**

### Regional Officer:

Mr. R. J. F. Whyte, Royal Chambers, Station Parade, Harrogate. Tel.: 69655.

## NORTH-WESTERN REGION (Manchester Office)

Blackburn and District Spastics Group **TC**  
 Blackpool and Fylde Spastics Society **O**  
 Bolton and District Spastics Society **TE**  
 Burnley Area and Rossendale Spastics Group **T**  
 Chester and District Spastics Association **TCE**  
 Crosby, Bootle, Litherland and District Spastics Society **C**  
 Lancaster, Morecambe and District Spastics Society  
 Manchester and District Spastics Society **TCE**  
 Oldham and District Spastics Society **OCT**  
 Preston and District Spastics Group **OCT**  
 Sale, Altrincham and District Spastics Society **RTEC**  
 Southport, Formby and District Spastics Society **H**  
 Stockport, East Cheshire and High Peak Spastics Society **TEOC**  
 Urmston and District Group **TC**  
 Warrington and District Group for the Welfare of Spastics **O**  
 Widnes Spastic Fellowship Group  
 Wigan and District Spastics Society

### Acting Regional Officer:

Mr. F. Young, Room 481, 4th Floor, St. James's Buildings, Oxford Street, Manchester 1. Tel.: Central 2088

### Regional Social Worker:

Mrs. M. Moncaster, Room 481, 4th Floor, St. James's Buildings, Oxford Street, Manchester 1. Tel.: Central 2088

## NORTH-WESTERN REGION (Chester Office)

Birkenhead Spastic Children's Society **TEOC**  
 Caernarvonshire Spastics and Handicapped Peoples' Society  
 Colwyn Bay and District Spastics Society  
 Crewe and District Spastics Society **TO**  
 Flint and District Spastics Society  
 Montgomery Spastics Society

### Deputy North-West Region Officer:

Mr. F. Young, 6 King's Buildings, Chester. Tel.: Chester 27127.

## EAST MIDLAND REGION

Boston District Branch  
 Chesterfield and District Spastics Society **TOC**  
 Derby and District Spastics Society **T**  
 Grantham and District Friends of Spastics  
 Grimsby, Cleethorpes and District Friends of Spastics Society  
 Leicester and Leicestershire Spastics Society **TC**  
 Lincoln and District Spastics Society  
 Loughborough and District Spastics Society  
 Mansfield and District Friends of Spastics Group **O**  
 Newark Area Spastics Society  
 Northampton and County Spastics Society **TE**  
 Nottingham and District Friends of Spastics Group **TEC**  
 Scunthorpe and District Spastic Society  
 Stamford and District Spastics Society

### Regional Officer:

Mr. T. H. O'Neill, 9 Regent Street, Nottingham. Tel.: 42198 and 42463

### Regional Social Worker:

Mrs. M. Lane, same address

## WEST MIDLAND REGION

Coventry and District Spastics Society  
 Dudley and District Spastic Group **WO**  
 Herefordshire Spastics Society **TOC**  
 Kidderminster and District Spastics Association  
 Midland Spastic Association **TEOWC**  
 North Staffordshire Spastic Association **TO**  
 Shrewsbury and District Spastics Group **H**  
 Stafford and District Spastic Association **T**  
 West Bromwich and District Spastics Society  
 Wolverhampton and District Spastics Society

### Regional Officer:

Mr. I. C. R. Archibald, 109 Colmore Row, Birmingham 3. Tel.: Central 3162

### Senior Welfare Officer, M.S.A. (Birmingham and Worcestershire areas):

Mrs. N. M. Barrett, 15 Victoria Road, Harborne, Birmingham 17. Tel.: Harborne 3182 and 2458

## SOUTH WALES REGION (including Mon.)

Cardiff and District Spastics Association **C**  
 Kenfig Hill and District Spastics Society **CTO**  
 Merthyr Tydfil and District Spastics Society  
 Monmouthshire Spastics Society

Pembrokeshire Spastics Society  
 Pontypridd and District Group  
 Swansea and District Spastics Assoc. **TECW**

### Regional Officer:

Mr. B. Kingsley-Davies, 2 Saunders Road, Cardiff. Tel.: 25725

### Regional Social Worker:

Miss A. M. Davey, 2 Saunders Road, Cardiff. Tel.: 29289

## WESTERN REGION

Bath and District Spastics Society  
 Bridgwater and District Friends of Spastics Association **T**  
 Bristol Spastics Association **CTOW**  
 Cornish Spastics Society  
 Exeter and Torbay Spastics Society **T**  
 Plymouth Spastic (CP) Association **COETW**  
 Weston and District Society for the Spastic and Mentally Handicapped **TR**  
 Yeovil and District Spastics Welfare Society

### Regional Officer:

Mr. D. S. Hutcheson, St. John House, 60 Staplegrove Road, Taunton, Somerset. Tel.: 81678

## EAST ANGLIA REGION

Cambridge and District Spastics Society  
 Clacton and District Group  
 Colchester and District Group  
 Essex Group  
 Ipswich and East Suffolk Branch **TW**  
 King's Lynn and West Norfolk Spastics Society  
 Lowestoft and N.E. Suffolk Spastics Society  
 Norfolk and Norwich Spastics Association **W**  
 Peterborough and District Group Spastics Society **O**  
 Southend-on-Sea and District Spastics Society **OC**  
 Thurrock and District Spastics Society

### Regional Officer:

Mr. H. G. Knight, 51 Newnham Road, Cambridge. Tel.: 61747

### Regional Social Worker:

Miss H. M. Day, 51 Newnham Road, Cambridge. Tel.: 54531

## WESSEX REGION

Andover and District Spastics Society  
 Basingstoke and District Spastics Society  
 Bournemouth, Poole and District Spastics Society **CTE**  
 Cheltenham Spastics Association **ETC**  
 Gloucester and District Spastics Association  
 Isle of Wight Spastics Society **TE**  
 Portsmouth and District Spastics Society **W**  
 Salisbury and District Friends of Spastics  
 Southampton and District Spastics Association **TOWCE**  
 Swindon and District Spastics Society **H**  
 Winchester and District Spastics Society

### Regional Officer:

Miss C. Mould, 7 St. John Street, Salisbury. Tel.: 4521

Mr. R. Jenkinson, same address



## NORTHERN HOME COUNTIES REGION

Bedford and District Branch **TOWEC**  
 Bishop's Stortford and District Group,  
 Herts Spastics Society  
 East Herts Group, Herts Spastics Society  
 Friends of Ponds Home  
 Hatfield and District Spastics Society  
 Hemel Hempstead and District Group, Herts  
 Spastics Society  
 Hitchin, Letchworth and Stevenage Spastics  
 Society  
 Luton, Dunstable and District Spastics  
 Group **TEC**  
 Maidenhead Friends of Spastics Group  
 Oxfordshire Spastics Welfare Society **TOC**  
 Reading and Berkshire Spastics Welfare  
 Society **T**  
 Slough and District Spastics Welfare Society  
 St. Albans and District Group, Herts  
 Spastics Society **T**  
 Watford and District Group, Herts Spastics  
 Society **TEOC**  
 Welwyn Garden City and District Group,  
 Herts Spastics Society  
 Wycombe and District Spastics Society **CT**

### Regional Officer:

Mr. R. C. Lemarie, 524 St. Alban's Road,  
 North Watford. Tel.: 41565

### Regional Social Worker (except Essex):

Miss A. M. Ballance, same address.  
 Tel.: 41059

## SOUTH-EASTERN REGION

Brighton, Hove and District Spastics Soc. **OC**  
 Canterbury and Kent Coast Spastics Group  
 Central Surrey Group  
 Croydon and District Spastics Society **TEWC**

East Sussex Group  
 Folkestone Group  
 Horsham, Crawley and District Spastic  
 Society  
 Maidstone Area Spastic Group  
 Medway Towns Branch  
 North Hants and West Surrey Group  
 North Surrey Group  
 North-West Kent Spastics Group  
 North-West Surrey Group  
 South-East Surrey Group  
 South-West Surrey Group  
 Thanet Group  
 Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Area Group  
 West Kent Spastics Society  
 West Sussex Spastics Group  
 Worthing, Littlehampton & District Spastics  
 Society

### Regional Officer:

Mr. H. J. I. Cunningham, 29b Linkfield  
 Lane, Redhill, Surrey. Tel.: Redhill 63944  
 and 62250

### Regional Social Worker:

Mrs. Vera Chinchin, same address

## LONDON REGION (provisional)

Central Middlesex Spastics Welfare Society **W**  
 East London Spastic Society **H**  
 Epping Forest and District Branch **TO**  
 Ilford, Romford and District Spastics  
 Association **O**  
 North London Area Association of Parents  
 and Friends of Spastics **T**  
 North-West London Spastics Society **W**  
 South-East London Group **T**  
 South-West Middlesex Group  
 South London Group  
 South-West London and District Group  
 Walthamstow and District Spastics Society

### C Regional Officer:

**H** Mrs. Patricia Latham, 28 Fitzroy Square,  
 London, W.1. Tel.: EUSton 2436/7

**OT** Guernsey Spastics Society  
**T** Jersey Spastics Society  
**TECO** Northern Ireland Council for Orthopaedic  
 Development (Inc.)

### WO

### TEOC

### TOC

### TEOC

### Chief Regional Officer:

Mr. A. M. Frank, M.C., M.A., 12 Park  
 Crescent, London, W.1

### Senior Regional Officer (North):

#### Post Vacant

Royal Chambers, Station Parade, Harrogate.  
 Tel.: 69655

### Development Secretary:

Mr. D. Lancaster-Gaye, 12 Park Crescent,  
 London, W.1

### Schools and Centres Secretary:

Mrs. C. A. Clifton, 12 Park Crescent, Lon-  
 don, W.1

## KEY TO LOCAL GROUPS

**T**—Treatment Available

**E**—Education

**O**—Occupational Centre

**W**—Work Centre

**H**—Holiday Home

**C**—Child Care

**R**—Residential Centre



*Take a Holiday at the*

# ARUNDEL HOTEL

There are still vacancies occasionally during  
 the Summer . . . Book now for the winter.

*Apply to the Manageress:*

MISS E. FIFIELD,  
 Arundel Private Hotel,  
 23 The Leas, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex.



## **ASSESSMENT DAY AT HEADQUARTERS**



Mr. and Mrs. Roy Witcher, of Mitcham, Surrey brought their two-year-old son John, to Park Crescent recently for preliminary assessment by one of the Society's Consultant Paediatricians. This is one of the services offered by the Society and gives parents the opportunity of discussing their child's potential with the consultant panel in a friendly atmosphere.



# SPASTICS

## News Extra

Published by The Spastics Society on the occasion of the Extraordinary General Meeting at Bristol, 14th May, 1966

## 46 DISABLED DRIVERS IN FIRST ROAD SAFETY RALLY

### All Competitors Complete Event Sponsored by Kentish Firm

by Our Special Correspondent

**T**HE first Road Safety Rally ever held in England for Disabled Drivers attracted 46 competitors on a cold Sunday in April. Extremely well organised by the Bexley Road Safety Officer, Mr. E. Crouch, the event was sponsored by British Insulated (Callenders) Cables Ltd. of Erith in Kent.

The Mayor of Bexley, Mrs. Marjorie Barron, who takes a keen interest in the disabled, had suggested that such a rally would be a worth-while venture, and she was present to see her sanguine expectations confirmed.

The course, which the local police considered a 'very fair test' i.e. it included some awkward crossings, etc., was 7½ miles long, round and about Erith. Marshals were posted at intervals along the route, who awarded marks for correct signals, and general road-sense as the contestants went along.

The competitors went off in two batches, the odd numbers going off first

#### THREE-WHEELERS

##### THE SNAGS IN QUOTES

- things keep going wrong
- keeping the tiller straight makes my hands ache
- the hooter is in an awkward position
- garages just don't want to know about these vehicles
- I often am given the wrong mixture of oil and petrol
- if I break down I am helpless because I can't take a passenger
- there is not enough tuition before being allowed on the road or before taking a test
- other road-users are pretty ruthless towards us.

##### AND ANOTHER ONE—

'I just don't know what I would do without it'!

at two minute intervals. Whilst they were completing the run, the even numbers' equipment, etc. were inspected by the scrutineers from the road safety viewpoint, and then undertook some simple tests.

They had to park within 9 inches of



Mrs. Barron, Mayor of Bexley, starts the first competitor, Miss B. J. Read, of Bromley, on the road section. On her right is Mr. A. Wellbeloved, M.P. for Crayford and Erith, and on her left is Dame Pat Hornsby-Smith, M.P.

the kerb, reverse and do the same thing, then they had to direct the stewards to place two 'gate-posts' at a width sufficient for their cars to go between, and lastly they had to back up to within 4 inches of a 'gate'. The stewards included instructors from the Institute of Advanced Motorists and the Clerk of the Course was Squadron-Leader D. H. T. McRae. Also present were Dame Patricia Hornsby-Smith, M.P., for Chislehurst, and Pierre Picton of the S.O.S.

As the cars finished they all lined up to one side of the parking lot, and then proceeded to the B.I.C.C. canteen. There a magnificent spread awaited them for tea, while they were entertained by a dance band.

B.I.C.C. had generously presented a trophy for the winner worth over £30.

Incidentally, the judges said that the three-wheeler drivers were more accurate in their tests than those driving adapted vehicles.

#### ON OTHER PAGES

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a Short Story by Orvil Strang ii

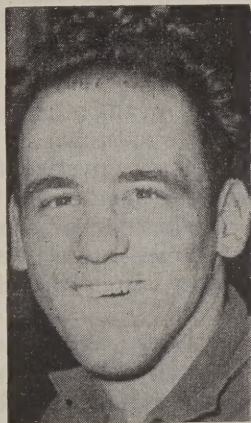
How the West was Won—  
by D. S. Hutcheson iii

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by Felicity Lane Fox iv

A Whole New World of Communi-  
cation—by Dick Boydell iv

## He Slept through a Blizzard

**A**N eighteen-year-old spastic boy from Avening, near Stroud, has just completed an arduous mountain trek, to qualify for part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award.



Mr. Gordon Smith

Gordon Smith who has been in employment with a light engineering firm at Woodchester for two years, was a popular and trusted student at Craig-y-Parc for nearly six years.

He gained the Silver Award a short time ago, but this test included a six-mile walk across rugged country in Wales, carrying throughout, a 15 lb. pack, sleeping bags and water buckets. The expedition was sponsored by the Stroud Branch of the Red Cross and Gordon was accompanied by P.C. Andrew Hampton of Gloucester and Philip Priestley, a Rover Scout from Bishops Cleeve.

It was a four-day trek, that started and ended at the Outward Bound Sea School, Aberdovey, and Gordon said 'There was nothing really difficult about it. The hardest part was the walking.' (He is lightly handicapped but with a dragging gait). He spent three nights under canvas, including one during a blizzard of snow, and cooked his own meals.

'I thought in my own mind I would be able to do it', he said. 'Everything went as planned—except for the weather—and I never thought of giving up'—that's an inspiration to others!

(Photo by courtesy: Gloucester Citizen)

## Used Envelopes are Useful



BRISTOL WORK CENTRE have an unusual contract with a philatelic firm. This firm buy all the used envelopes from a football pools organisation (Not the Spastic's Pools) and pay them to tear off the stamps. They have handled over 300,000 stamps in about 8 months.

The philatelic firm have also offered to buy any used Commemorative stamps they can collect at the rate of 7s. 6d. per thousand (or more). This makes them more valuable to the Centre than Green Shield Stamps.

Stamps must not be removed entirely from the paper but the corner should be torn off the envelope. If any group cares to collect the new 'Country-side' issue available on 2nd May or any other special issues they will share the proceeds with them and pay them 6s. per 1,000 for the torn off stamps or 4s. per 1,000 for the complete envelopes.



# In My Opinion

by  
TITO de NERVAL

## 'Bottom of the Pops'

IN these days of worship of the bitch-goddess 'SUCCESS', frustration, disappointment and anxiety fill the waiting rooms of the alienists to overflowing. Not to have 'arrived' is considered not only worse than having travelled hopefully, but worse than having even started.

This is the age of the 'Smart Alec'—or perhaps one should say the 'Smart Harold'—when double-dealing has been elevated to a fine art, and double-thinking is an occupational disease for which there is no known therapy.

In my own limited circle of acquaintances from different walks of life, in the last two years, three middle-aged but attractive women have committed suicide, and two men. Others are on their way either to or from a cure for alcoholism, and two or three are serving or have served gaol sentences of greater or shorter duration, and one has had a serious nervous breakdown.

All of these cases are people who have had a chance in life; have married, perhaps twice, and had children, and both men were well on a career that promised brilliant success.

Why?—is what one asks, why? In sociological terms one might call these tragedies cases of 'diminished responsibility', but to whom? to their families, to themselves or to Society at large? or is Society itself to blame? Big questions, and no one answer fits the different situations.

What one can say, I think, is that everyone has some defect of character to live with; or to put it another way, a real—or imagined—handicap to overcome. One is tempted to say to spastics: 'you're not missing anything! Life has always been nasty, brutish and short, make the most of your disability, get everything you can out of your family, your teachers, your friends, it gives them a splendid opportunity for the exercise of charity, for which a half smile will be ample reward.' But that way, despair lies.

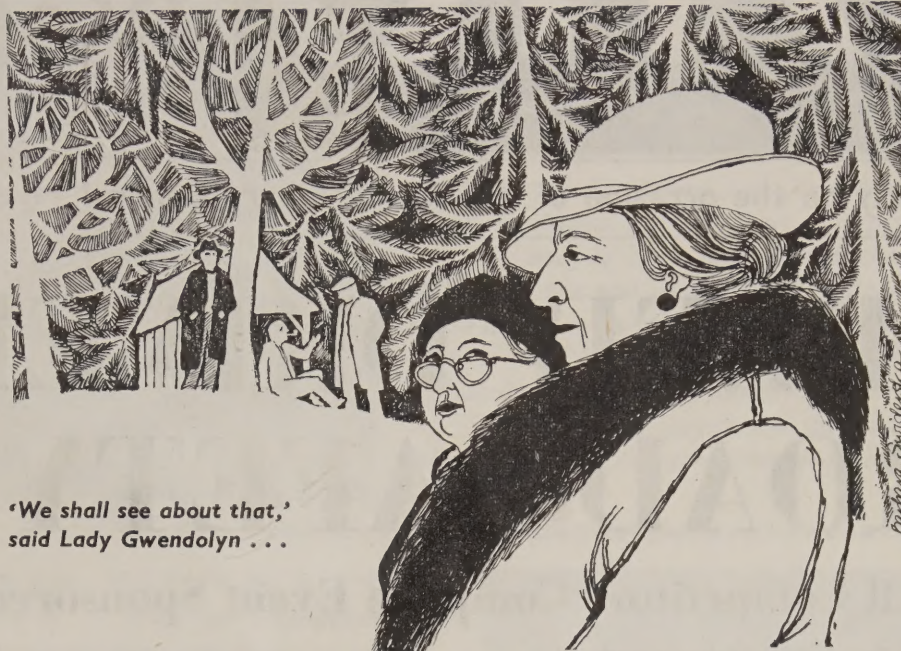
For after all, what does it matter if you never make the grade, if you are 'Bottom of the Pops?'—say not the struggle naught availeth, it is the only thing that does matter. Never give in. Never give up. Never haul down the flag.

And this is a parting thought for those spastics who read these words: Do not forget that you, yes you, are your parents' handicap; they are in as much need of understanding and help as you are yourself, perhaps even more.

# Miss Edith and Lady Gwendolyn

A Short Story  
by Orvil Strang

Illustrated by  
Barbara Swiderska



'We shall see about that,'  
said Lady Gwendolyn . . .

THE sunbeams slanting across the stuffy, crowded Hall, caught the dusty particles in their rays, and made them glitter like gold; were they motes or beams? wondered Miss Edith. She never really knew the difference.

Squashed into the back row with nowhere to put her handbag, and wearing an altogether unsuitable tweedy overcoat, Miss Edith found the atmosphere very oppressive. But Lady Gwendolyn was on the platform, looking rather regal, she thought.

The Mayor was droning on, in his ponderous Aldermanic way, and she heartily wished that she was somewhere else, walking through the woods in May.

' . . . and this is a building of which we, as a community, may be justly proud' said the Mayor. 'There are

those who had to be convinced of the need for it—and some of us had to fight hard in Committee to justify the 1d. on the Rates—(Old humbug, thought Miss Edith), but through the persistence of the two ladies whose kind hearts are matched with their zeal for the welfare of the aged and disabled in this town, we see, today, that success has crowned their efforts, and'—but by now, Miss Edith's head was nodding. . . .

\* \* \*

It was almost two years to the day that Lady Gwendolyn and her friend and companion, Miss Edith, had been taking a stroll through the woods, on the outskirts of the town, when they had come across the three old men sitting in their shanty, rigged up amongst the trees.

They had stopped to admire a glorious cluster of primroses in the bank beside the lane, when they noticed them, sitting on a log, sucking their pipes, and looking for all the world as though one could see no evil, one hear none, and one speak none.

'Morning, Ma'am', they said, 'Tis a fine day for a walk.'

'Yes, indeed', replied Lady Gwendolyn somewhat taken aback to be addressed by three such tatterdemalions. 'Yes, indeed'. And after a moment's hesitation she moved on with a slight nod of her head to indicate to Miss Edith that she did not wish to linger.

For although she relied on Miss Edith to organise the smallest detail of her life for her, her face, like a coat of arms, always made her the spokesman, the leader.

When they were out of ear shot, Lady Gwendolyn burst out.

'It's disgraceful! Camping out in the woods these days', she exclaimed to her companion.

'Did you see what a state that hut was in? Dirty old kettles, ragged clothes, leaky tarpaulin, and I suppose

they sleep on those straw things piled up in the corner!'

'They seemed very polite', ventured Miss Edith.

'Polite indeed', snorted Lady Gwendolyn, 'I'm surprised the police haven't turned them in for vagrancy!'

'Perhaps they have nowhere to go, no family or friends to look after them', replied Miss Edith.

'We shall see about that', replied Lady Gwendolyn somewhat grimly.

And their walk was concluded in silence.

But 'see about it she did'. It ill behoved anyone to under-rate the driving force of Lady Gwendolyn on the war-path, and a mere Borough Council proved no exception.

She lobbied the local M.P., she organised a successful fête, she gave 'coffee-mornings', and finally she dragooned some of her elderly cronies onto a committee to raise funds for the building of an Old People's Home.

To those who objected on the grounds that such a place was unnecessary in these days of the Welfare State, she produced an unsuspected gift for statistics, in the numbers of old people who were all but destitute; to those who objected on the principle of the cost, she appealed to their civic pride; and those who claimed that the old people were quite happy as things were, were quite overwhelmed by a public meeting that clearly demonstrated that the social conscience was aroused.

Now it was built, and everyone was as pleased with themselves as though they had thought of the idea in the first place.

\* \* \*

' . . . and each set of rooms has its own cooking facilities', His Worship was still droning on, 'and, of course, in the communal lounge there is a TV. set, kindly presented by an anonymous donor. . . .'

But it was all too much for Miss Edith; the heat, the people, the endless stream of platitudes, and quietly, she disengaged her umbrella from the feet of her next-door neighbour and left the hall.

Almost unconsciously, she found herself wending her way down the lane to the woods, that she and Lady Gwendolyn had traversed that day, oh, ages and ages ago.

Sniffing the fresh breeze, on the alert for the scent of her beloved wild violets, another, an alien odour assailed her nostrils.

Sausages, she thought, could it be the smell of frying sausages?

And as she came to the clearing she remembered so well, there were the three old men, sitting on a log, sucking their pipes, and one was frying sausages in a rusty pan over a fire of twigs.

## USELESS KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

What is the origin of the Inn-signs:—

- 'The Elephant and Castle?'
- 'The Goat and Compasses?'

Who apologised for being:

- 'such an unconscionable time a-dying?'

Who said:

- 'If that Club elected some-one like me, it isn't the sort of Club I should want to belong to!'

Which well-known authors who wrote under pseudonyms were actually called:

- Arouet (ii) Clemens
- (iii) Dodgson?

(See answers foot of Col. 2, page iii)

## EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING, MAY 14th, 1966

The Reception Hall, The Wills Memorial Building, University of Bristol, Queen's Road, Bristol 8.

### ORDER OF EVENTS

10 o'clock  
Meeting is opened by Mr. J. F. G. Emms, Vice-Chairman of The Spastics Society.

#### THE THEME: THE LOCAL GROUP

Discussion will be led by a panel consisting of:—

Mr. A. P. Moira (Vice-Chairman, The Society), Dr. C. P. Stevens (Director, The Society), Mr. W. A. Burn (Hon. Treasurer), Mr. W. G. Jehan (Executive Committee), Mr. J. A. Loring (Asst. Director Services), Mr. H. Wolff (Chairman, E. Midlands Regional Advisory Committee), Mr. S. Hastings (Chairman, Halifax & District Group) and Mr. A. Rogers (Chairman, Chesterfield & District Group).

10.15 a.m.  
The Local Group and The Society.

11.05 a.m.  
The Local Group and Services to Spastics.

11.35 a.m.  
The Local Group and Appeals.

12.50 p.m.  
The Chairman's Closing Speech.

12.55 p.m.  
Notices from the Secretary.

Luncheon will be taken at the HAWTHORNE'S HOTEL at 1.15 p.m.

Coaches will leave the Hotel at 2.15 p.m. for the afternoon visits to the Regional Pool Promotions Offices and Bristol Work Centre.



# Fourteen Years of Progress

by  
**MICHAEL REYNOLDS**

TO bring you every month a digest of news about spastics at home and abroad'. That was the task which SPASTICS NEWS (or N.S.S. News as it was then called) set itself in its first issue. This came out only a few months after the foundation of the National Spastics Society early in 1952, and it is a tribute to the way in which the magazine has lived up to its original aim that we can trace the growth of the Society through the headlines of the News over the years.

The need for funds was paramount. And the need was beginning to be met by the general public. At the Society's first annual general meeting in 1953, the Chairman, Ian Dawson Shepherd, announced the raising of £20,000 in 18 months. Later that year the first Christmas seals appeal was launched—a fund-raising effort which, by 1955, was itself bringing in £200,000.

As money came in so it was put to good use. In 1952 there was a handful of local centres already in operation. The following year saw the opening of the Stockport centre, and in the years between 1954 and 1958 came such national centres as Prested Hall, Craig-y-Parc and Tixover Grange Schools, and Thomas Delarue School—the first in the country to provide Secondary Grammar Education for heavily handicapped spastics.

In the first six years of its existence, the National Spastics Society had established 30 centres, a figure since more than trebled.

## £45,000 For Research

Two years after its foundation, the Society was in a strong enough position to allocate £45,000 for a medical research programme with its own research director, Dr. Paul Polani. This was later to be extended into a department at Guy's Hospital, with Dr. Polani as the first Prince Philip Professor of Paediatric Research. The name of the new Chair marked the honour bestowed on the Society in 1957 when the Duke of Edinburgh became its first President.

In the same year, Dr. C. P. Stevens joined the Society as its Director, a position he has occupied ever since. Three years later, Mr. J. F. G. Emms was to succeed Mr. Dawson Shepherd as Chairman, and the Society moved into a new stage of its development. By this time new money raising ventures had been established, including the foundation of the Friends of Spastics League, prompting the headline 'Football Pools to help Spastics'.

But 1963 was to be the year in which an historic event in the history of the welfare of spastics was to take place. The National Spastics Society and the British Council for the Welfare of Spastics amalgamated as The Spastics Society, under the Chairmanship of Dr. D. E. Wheeler of B.C.W.S. The united venture was to extend the work undertaken for spastics in England and Wales and to channel all efforts in one direction, with the success we know.

# Bristol in the Eighteenth Century



This rare old print was kindly lent by Messrs. Baynton-Williams, 70 Old Brompton Road, S.W.3

# HOW THE WEST WAS WON

by **D. S. Hutcheson (West R.O.)**

**B**RISTOL, the venue for the 1966 Extraordinary General Meeting of The Spastics Society, lies on the North East boundary of the West Region of the Society. It is as different from the rest of the region with the exception of Plymouth, as its new city centre, rising Phoenix-like from the ashes of destruction, differs from the older parts of the city still remaining.

The West Region extends to the western tip of Cornwall from an eastern boundary along a curving line running southwards approximately through Bristol, Bath, Frome and Sherbourne to Bridport. Besides the whole of the counties of Cornwall, Devon and Somerset, portions of Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Dorset fall within the territory.

Some 175 miles in length with the widest portion being no more than 75 miles, the types of population are as different as their varied occupations and the topography of the land, but there is one thing in common covering all this area of such diversity, and that is the work for the benefit of spastics undertaken by the eight groups in the Region which are affiliated to the Spastics Society.

The **Cornish Spastics Society**, taken first because it is the youngest and furthest distant, has been in existence for just over three years. It has established the *Varcoe Holiday Home* at Par which has proved so popular that already bookings have been received for 1967. With the establishment at Camborne of a national Residential Centre as the result of the generous gift of a property from a Cornish donor, the Cornish Spastics Society are most

anxious to develop their service for spastics from this Centre.

Travelling eastwards across Bodmin Moor we reach the territory of the **Plymouth Spastics (C.P.) Association**. This is one of the oldest Associations, having been formed in 1951 and at one time it took in the whole of Devon and Cornwall. This Society helps to run the *Trengweath Centre*, Plymouth. Trengweath caters for children with a school group, a nursery group and a special training group. There is also an Adult Work Centre. Extensions are being added here and when complete there will be a Family Health Unit. Plymouth also run an Adult Residential Unit. Treatment is provided at Trengweath as well as at Launceston and Bude.

The **Exeter & Torbay Spastics Society** have so far specialised in treatment both domiciliary and at Centres in Exeter and Torquay. In five years they have expanded their service to the stage where they now have 218 children's case histories in their hands. With the help of a grant from the Spastics Society, the first stage of an ambitious plan for a new Centre has been launched.

An entirely separate organisation, but affiliated to the Spastics Society, the *Dame Hannah Rogers School*, is situated at Ivybridge in this area. It has room for 50 children and is an outstanding example of the type of provision which can be made for the education of spastic children.

Still moving east we come to the **Yeovil and District Spastics Welfare Society**. This is a group formed more recently and its territory has a much smaller population than those already mentioned. They provide holiday facili-

ties for spastics in a caravan at Bridport and give individual service to spastics in their area.

Going north through Taunton, where as yet there is no Group, we come to the **Bridgwater** district. This group started in 1953 and provides a Day Treatment Centre.

To the north-east there is the **Weston & District Society** for the Spastic and Mentally Handicapped which has helped to provide *St. Margaret's Holiday Home* as well as an adult training centre.

Further east the **Bath & District Spastics Society** has drawn up plans and is negotiating with the Hospital Authorities for the erection of a Day Treatment Centre. Formed less than four years ago this Group is very keen to press on with its project.

To the north we find the **Bristol Spastics Association**.

Situated in 1948 it has the largest population in its territory of all groups in the Region, although it is the smallest territory in the area. Having started and organised a Day Centre at Stratton Street, this has been handed over to the Civic Authorities and an Adult Work Centre is now run by the Association. It is this Work Centre which those attending the Extraordinary General Meeting will be inspecting in the afternoon. A Hospital Residential Unit is being planned.

Bristol is fortunate indeed in having forward looking Civic Authorities, and, as a result, it is one of the leading cities in looking after the physically and mentally handicapped. The *Bush Training Centre* is an example in this connection. They also have a special school for spastics called Claremont, which takes children from the age of 3 to 16.

**The Answers to Quiz**  
(i) A corruption of: THE INFANTA OF CASTILE, as brought back to England by the soldiers returning from the Peninsular Wars who set up as innkeepers.  
(ii) A corruption of: GOD ENCOMPARASSETH US—a motto that used to be displayed outside the Hostels for travellers run by monks in Medieval Times.  
(i) Charles II, (ii) Groucho Marx.  
(i) Voltaire, (ii) Mark Twain, (iii) Lewis Carroll.



# 'My Batteries and I . . .'

by FELICITY LANE FOX

**L**ITTLE could be pleasanter than to zoom across the countryside on a lovely day in an open electrically propelled tricycle. Here are combined the best moments with the speedboat, the luge and the horse. A reassuringly persistent 'whirr' emits from the well-charged batteries, changing tone slightly as you bounce over the bumps and providing effective backing to your lusty rendering of 'Hello Dolly'.

I have had two tricycles since my first in 1932. Each has possessed a bewitching charm and has bestowed on its driver a jaunty sense of carefree independence—that is, when the batteries are charged up. Here comes the crunch. Every battery is dead heavy and cumbersome and is greedy for maintenance. Many is the contretemps with the faulty trickle charger and the absent distilled water. When the batteries are run down the tricycle thinks nothing of stopping halfway up a hill.

My tricycle once gave up the ghost on the way home from a point-to-point. We made the rest of the journey tied by a washing-line to the bumper of a car. Once as I was watching a game of tennis from the top of a sharp flight of ornamental steps a small boy moved a lever to 'high speed'. I landed at the bottom, unhurt but upside down. This is the kind of natural hazard to be expected.

The chariot is impractical, infuriating, but invigorating. Since mine has often plunged its way through heavy ploughed fields it would be fair to add—and almost indestructible.



## A WHOLE NEW WORLD OF COMMUNICATION

Dick Boydell writes the 30-minute letter with his special type-writer

4 Hanyards Lane,  
Cuffley,  
Herts.  
10th April, 1966

Dear Mr. Beckett,

As you suggested, it may be of some interest to other Spastics who are just starting to use POSSUM controlled typewriters if I describe my experiences with one of these wonderful machines over the past two years.

To me, an outstanding feature of the POSSUM control system is that a severely disabled person could operate it with any part of the body where there is sufficient control.

The typewriter I started with was controlled by two switches which I operated with my foot, using audible clicks to select the letters etc. from a simple grid code (Spastics' News May 1964 p. 6). At first this required a great deal of concentration, and I found it absolutely essential to be in a room on my own free from all noise or distraction. I began by practising groups of letters and figures until I had mastered the code. Within a fortnight I was able to write my first letter ever and you can imagine what a thrill it was.

After eight months my speed was up to four words per minute, and a little later I changed over to a more complex four-switch control, also foot operated, which, with continuing practice, has doubled my speed.

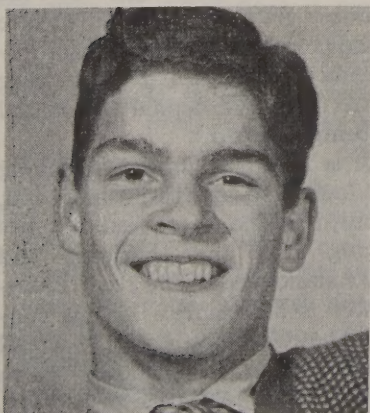
I have got so used to the machine now that typing is quite automatic and I rarely have to think about the switch sequences even when demonstrating in front of a crowd or against noise.

My existing four-switch control is now being modified in order to reduce foot movement to a minimum. This should enable me to improve my speed still more.

The ability to communicate has opened up a whole new world for me and all the early hard work has been well worth while.

Yours sincerely,

Dick Boydell.



Dick Boydell, a chair-bound athetoid, has no clear speech. Unable to attend school, he was taught to read by his mother and made maximum use of School Broadcasts. His Possum-operated I.B.M. type-writer and tape-recorder have enabled him to make new contacts, develop fresh interests and pass the Radio Amateurs' Examination.

In September, Dick—who is 32—goes to Wiesbaden to demonstrate Possum equipment at the 10th World Congress of the International Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled.



Lucky pools winner, Mrs. Margaret Craven of Conway, N. Wales, being presented with a cheque for £2,066 won on the Spastics League Club, by Mr. Wolstencroft, District Superintendent. (Left) Mr. J. H. Williams, Collector, and (Right) Mr. Glyn Craven.

## WHAT THE WELL-DRESSED OFFICE IS WEARING

**I**T floated onto my desk after the thud of the usual brown paper envelopes in the morning's mail. A panoramic, genteelly-coloured picture postcard of Winchester. Good, I thought, a friend on holiday 'wishing I was there'. Not a bit of it. On the reverse side there was a message from the editor of SPASTICS NEWS. '... a brilliant idea for a little piece by you for the SPASTICS NEWS Supplement—What the Best Dressed Office is Wearing. You know—Danish furniture, John Piper pictures of churches, foot-woven textiles and Tio Pepe'.

Why ask me? I have a much greater knowledge of what the worst dressed office is wearing. I know because I have worked in it or rather I have worked in the second worst. The worst of all was one in Newfoundland in basement depths of incredible squalor. Not a single stable chair, not a single steady desk but, worst of all, rats. 'They kept popping up through the holes' some of the sufferers said. 'When work was slack we used to organise rat hunts.'

The second worst in which I had the misfortune to work for a few years had a broken glass partition at one end and a floor which was a death trap for stilettos. The glass partition broke when someone playing a lunch-time game of football, had, with a brilliant shot, landed the ball on the opposite side of the partition in the editor's plate of fish

and chips. The editor, to do him justice, had merely picked out the pieces of glass from the fish and chips with a gentle reminder to 'be more careful next time,' but the glass partition had never been properly repaired. As for the floor—it consisted of soft and crumbling floor-boards and stilettos sank into it like car tyres into mud. Many a projected dash from one side of the room to the other (to avoid leaks from the roof) ended with the victim transfixed to the floor in mid-flight with one or both shoe heels embedded in the boards.

Almost as badly dressed, but certainly sounder in structure, was the office which a friend of my father operated early in his ascent to a five-figure income. A telephone kiosk does not have a desk, it does not have a chair and it is subject to constant intrusions. On the other hand it does have a telephone and a telephone is an invaluable asset to a young man starting on a career.

When I come to think of it I do know one 'best dressed office' which which does actually exist—not at Park Crescent, but somewhere not very far away. The owner is an industrial designer and his office wears Arne Jacobsen swan chairs, original abstracts in oils, rosewood coffee tables and parking meters. The last are there because he designed them.

P.N.